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Engineer blasts 'political' planning in capital

BILL HUTMAN

PLANNING decisions in Jerusalem have been based on political and not urban considerations for years, creating an "unhealthy" city, the newly installed city engineer said yesterday.

Uri Ben-Asher, a former Jerusalem district planner at the Interior Ministry, was addressing a meeting of the capital's local planning committee, at which the construction of a new neighborhood at Har Homa was being discussed.

The plan was nonetheless approved, as was expected. The vote was 7-1. The plan calls for the construction of 6,500 new homes on some 1850 dunams that was largely expropriated from Jews, but also taken from landowners from nearby Arab neighborhoods.

Opponents of the plan charge it is politically motivated, and aimed at increasing the Jewish population in the city quickly, while ignoring the needs of Arab residents.

Gush Shalom said it had sent a telegram to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is also interior minister, asking him to override the committee's approval.

"What is the point of going to Cairo for a summit meant to revive the peace process, and on the same day give approval to implement a gross provocation against peace?" the telegram said.

"Planning in Jerusalem is done by government offices to serve political ends, and not with an eye to urban factors... Such planning is unhealthy for the city," Ben-Asher said.

Ben-Asher also criticized the long-held government policy of pushing for construction of large Jewish neighborhoods around central Jerusalem for demographic and strategic reasons.

"The city of Jerusalem looks like a man with clogged arteries, all fat on the outside and a weak heart in the middle," Ben-Asher said.

Central Jerusalem has been allowed to deteriorate, while the outlying neighborhoods were built hastily and without the proper infrastructure and services, he said.

The Har Homa area is among the last undeveloped tracts in Jerusalem, and it would be the city's challenge to ensure the same mistakes are not made there as in other new neighborhoods, he said.

Ben-Asher, who took many committee members by surprise with his criticism, also said there is no reason the neighborhood should be only for Jews, as is presently planned.

Committee chairman Uri Lupoliansky said he envisions Har Homa as the central part of more extensive development in southern Jerusalem, aimed at boosting the city's population by 100,000.

"These plans are important for strengthening Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the entire Jewish people," Lupoliansky said.

The plan is expected to be approved by the full city council later this month. It must then go before the District Planning Commission, whose chairman has already vowed to ensure its quick passage.

20 kilos of heroin seized in Tel Aviv

POLICE yesterday arrested two men who were found in the Tel Aviv area in possession of 20 kilograms of pure heroin, with an estimated street value of NIS 3.5 million, apparently smuggled in from Lebanon.

The two had been placed under surveillance after police received a tip on large-scale trafficking around a month ago.

The first suspect, 45, from Umm el-Fahm, owns a business in Tel Aviv, and the other, 25, from Rahat, were caught when they met outside a steakhouse yesterday. One man fled in his car, but was captured after a short chase.



02021003

Four-way Cairo summit today

Mubarak invites Rabin, Hussein, Arafat to resuscitate peace process



Foreign Minister Shimon Peres meets with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday in Cairo. (Reuters)

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Jordan's King Hussein, and PLO leader Yasser Arafat will hold an unprecedented summit meeting in Cairo this afternoon.

US, Israeli, and Egyptian officials said the summit is aimed at reviving the peace process and winning greater support for the negotiations among the Israeli public, in the aftermath of the Beit Lid attack.

US and Israeli officials said they expect the summit to conclude with a communique containing an explicit condemnation of terrorism.

Last night, Foreign Ministry officials announced that the negotiations on Palestinian elections would resume in Cairo next week.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, upon his return yesterday from preparatory talks in Cairo with Mubarak, hailed the event as constituting a "coalition of peace."

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in a statement yesterday that US "applauds and endorses" Mubarak's "bold initiative" in hosting the summit. He called it "an historic and unprecedented event" that "constitutes only the first step" in the countering the effect of recent terrorist attacks.

Christopher also said the US had worked over the last week with the four parties to keep the process moving ahead, and noted the "dramatic demonstration of the commitment of the four leaders to the process."

Israeli and US officials are talking of a "feel-good" summit that can generate badly needed momentum for the peace process.

Mubarak notified Syrian President Hafez Assad of the summit before announcing it. He did not, however, consult Syria before making the decision.

"[Mubarak] notified [Syria] that the conference is about to take place. He asked if they had any agenda item they wanted to raise, but they said no," Peres said.

Israeli officials said Damascus was not invited because Egypt

did not want to "embarrass it," knowing that Assad has made it clear that until major progress is achieved in the negotiations on the Golan Heights, he does not want to attend a high-level meeting with Israel.

At the same time, Foreign Ministry officials said they expect the final summit communique will reiterate the importance of a "comprehensive peace" between Israel and its Arab neighbors, including Syria.

The officials also said they expect the communique to include determination to press ahead with implementing other aspects of the Oslo agreement, including convening talks on Palestinians displaced in 1967; international funding for the Palestinian Authority; and regional economic cooperation, such as a potential follow-up business conference to be held in Amman this fall.

Officials in Jerusalem would also like to see mention of the convening of periodic four-way summits.

Left unclear is if and how the communique will deal with sensitive issues such as Islamic extremism, Israeli settlements, and nuclear non-proliferation.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir and top Egyptian Foreign Ministry aide Nabil Fahmy began exchanging preliminary drafts of the final communique during yesterday's meeting.

The summit appears to have been initiated by a few parties. US officials were quietly pressing for the event, as they wanted Arab countries to condemn the Beit Lid attack. The idea was also advanced by Peres, who discussed it with his Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa last weekend in Switzerland.

However, three events over the last few weeks finally made the meeting possible. First, Mubarak recently paid a reconciliation visit to Hussein, his first since the Gulf War. Second, Arafat last week made his first trip to Amman since arriving in Gaza last summer, enabling an economic agreement for future cooperation to be reached, after a pronounced chill between Jordan and the PLO.

Finally, Israel and Egypt are trying to tone down the recrimination traded during recent months over the upcoming extension of the peace process.

(Continued on Page 2)

Trade ministers to confer in Taba

CAIRO (Reuters) - The US will head a meeting next week for trade ministers of Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinians in Taba, to lay the groundwork for future Middle East economic cooperation.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry official Jamal Bayyouni, head of the Israeli Affairs Department, said US Trade Minister Ron Brown is to preside over the two-day meeting aimed at boosting economic development, economic cooperation and trade and to encourage private enterprises.

The meeting would take place next Tuesday and Wednesday 8 in Taba, he said. The ministers have intentionally chosen Taba, which links Israel with Jordan and Egypt, to be the venue of the meeting, as a symbol of peace and prosperity.

The ministers are to discuss a tourist free-zone area along the borders between Egypt, Jordan, and Israel.

Opposition growing to trade pact with EU

DAVID MAKOVSKY

OPPOSITION is growing to what ministers say are the poor terms of the proposed free trade agreement with the European Union (EU).

There is now a consensus that the proposed pact will not even put in Israel's ballooning \$7.4 billion trade deficit with Europe.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsuri this week joined Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish in saying the "agreement is bad."

"I don't think I can recommend that the cabinet accept it," Tsuri said in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*.

Industry and Trade and Agriculture are the two key ministries affected most by the terms of the proposed agreement.

Tsuri complained about the lack of European flexibility in raising Israeli agriculture export quotas. "This is an important issue for us, since 85% of all our agricultural exports go to Europe. More of our exports, however, would not hurt Europe."

"Europe, which claims it wanted to help us because of our favorable stance on peace, is in fact showing no goodwill," he said.

"In the past, the Europeans said they did not want to help us because of Likud policies in the territories. I have met with five different European agriculture ministers, and now they say they don't want to help us because they have their own economic

problems," he stated. European officials are calling on Israel to conclude talks immediately, claiming the current accord is a substantial improvement over the original 1975 agreement. Leading European officials are due to pay a semi-annual visit here next week, when the free trade agreement will be discussed.

Earlier this week, Harish declared, "The proposed agreement does not contribute to the economy, not in the short-term, not in the long-term. I see no reason to proceed towards an agreement that does not provide any economic answers, which do not even partially alleviate our balance of payments with Europe."

Israel's trade deficit with Europe has shot up by \$1.8 billion within the last year.

Critics of the accord speak with a special sense of urgency, since now is the first time in 20 years Israel is being afforded the opportunity to renegotiate the parameters of trade with Europe.

Harish blamed the Foreign Ministry, chief negotiators in the agreement, for mishandling the talks, saying it had "failed" to achieve any economic targets.

He said the ministry wanted to wrap up talks weeks ago. Harish pointedly insisted that

the "Foreign Ministry has not figured out" that it should be using political leverage to extract trade concessions from an EU that wants to be more closely associated with the peace process.

Sources said Foreign Ministry officials returned from meetings in Paris last week, and told their superiors that a "window of opportunity" necessitates concluding an agreement with the EU now.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in a statement, concurred that the agreement will not alter Israel's deficit with Europe. At the same time, he believes the deal should be wrapped-up now and Israel should not be driven by "short-term and short-sighted economic considerations," but by an interest in moving politically closer to Europe.

"Why should we conclude an accord with Europe now?" said Zohar Peri, Harish's top aide on international trade. "There is no agreement on the terms of Israeli telecommunications access to European government procurement contracts, only a willingness to negotiate this later. This is not sufficient."

"We have also received nothing when it comes to our demands for reducing custom levies on Israeli processed foods."

"Both Agriculture and Commerce and Industry believe it is

Rabin urges use of foreign workers

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday he prefers importing foreign workers to employing Arabs from the territories.

"There is no need for shame because we must import foreign labor," Rabin told the Labor Party's moshav sector. "I prefer to have workers from Thailand here instead of Arab knifemen stabbing innocent passersby in sovereign Israel."

SARAH HONIG and news agencies

Rabin reported that 12,000 Thais now work in Israel. "We need foreign workers and this is a reality we must recognize and accept. There is nothing wrong with it. We cannot treat it as some theoretical issue. We need practical answers to a real problem," he argued.

"The problem of terrorism is the main impediment to implementing peace," Rabin said.

"We will go to separation and we will also increase the number of foreign workers... if we want to have security during the peace process," Rabin added.

"The main thing is to provide security for the 97 percent of Israelis who live within the sovereign boundaries of Israel."

Six held in theft of texts from Russia

SIX Israelis were arrested here yesterday in connection with the theft of \$300 million in ancient texts from the national library of St. Petersburg, Russia in December.

Russian Police had already managed to recover about 90 stolen texts, including some of Jewish origin, and arrest several non-Israeli suspects, before the six fled

the country. About three weeks ago, Russian police approached the Israel Police about the case, after the investigation pointed to involvement of Israelis.

The Serious Crimes Division in Petah Tikva immediately began an intensive investigation, which led

to the arrest yesterday of the six suspects.

The police spokesman noted that the joint investigation was greatly facilitated by the recently opened Israel Police liaison office in Moscow.

The Israeli suspects, from the Tel Aviv, Ashdod, and Haifa areas, are to be remanded today at Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court.

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US issues first report on PA human rights

BOTH Palestinian and Israeli security forces abused detainees last year, according to the State Department's annual human rights report, released yesterday.

The report, which covers 1994, is the first to evaluate the Palestinian Authority's performance.

It said that since the Palestinian judiciary is still developing, "it is difficult to assess fully the PA's human rights record for this

period under review." Nevertheless, "there have been credible reports that the Palestinian Police Force has mistreated detainees," including killing at least one.

In addition, it stated that "credible sources have reported that Palestinian security officials have abused prisoners at the Gaza Central Prison. PA officials acknowledge such abuse."

While "there were clear im-

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

provements" in human rights in the territories, the report said credible reports indicate that Israel "mistreated, and in some cases tortured" Palestinians during arrest and interrogation.

All told in 1994, the report stated, Israeli security forces killed 108 Palestinians; Palestinians

killed 75 Israelis in Israel and the territories; and Israeli settlers killed 37 Palestinians, including the 29 victims of the Hebron massacre.

"In the other instances, the IDF reportedly took little or no action to halt attacks."

It stated that Israeli undercover units killed at least 13 Palestinians, a drop from 27 in 1993.

In addition, Palestinians killed

65 compatriots, "most often because of alleged collaboration with Israeli security services."

There were no Palestinian deportees for the second consecutive year, and also a "sharp decline" in cases of house sealings.

Of the others in the region monitored, the State Department concluded that Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq continue to violate human rights.

Plans outlined for separation

LIAT COLLINS

PRELIMINARY plans for separating Judea, Samaria and Gaza from Israel calls for police to prevent infiltration, for checkpoints on the main roads leading into the country, and for more intelligence information, Police Minister Moshe Shahal told the Knesset yesterday.

Shahal is a member of the team established to deal with the issue in an effort to prevent terror attacks. The team is expected to submit its recommendations within a month.

Shahal also said there will be a fence where it is required for security reasons to physically prevent unauthorized people from crossing into Israel but it will not be 350 km. long as originally suggested.

Other members of the team are

police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, the head of the General Security Service, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shahak and his deputy Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnai, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir, and Yigal Pressler, the prime minister's adviser on terrorism.

Also, the chief of police headquarters, the head of the IDF Planning Division, the commander of the Border Police, the OC Home Front Command, the IDF coordinator for the territories, and the deputy Finance Ministry budget director.

A separate team will be established to deal with the economic aspects of the separation.

Shahal was speaking in answer to several motions to the agenda on the subject.

Knesset legislates treaty with Jordan

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset yesterday passed a bill implementing the peace treaty with Jordan, by 52 votes to 2.

Molodet MKs Rehavam Ze'evi and Shaul Guttman were the only two MKs who opposed the bill, although Likud MK Michael Eitan noted his dissatisfaction with the fact that land was handed over to the Jordanians before the bill passed second and third readings.

Labor, Likud, Meretz, Tsomet, Yit'ud, United Torah Judaism, Hadash and the Democratic Arab Party all voted in favor; there were no Shas MKs present.

The law formally anchors the treaty, but its main importance stems from it having set a precedent concerning the legal and legislative procedures for transfer of sovereign land.

During the discussion, Eitan proposed adding a clause which would state that "the law would be valid until the final arrangements had been made in the dispute between the Jews and Arabs in the Land of Israel."

Eventually, however, all reservations were dropped.



Jordan's King Hussein visits the Air Risha area where the IDF withdrew on Monday.

(Reuters)

Labor MK Ori Orr, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, agreed that it would have been better to

complete the legislation before land was transferred.

But he asked the plenum to approve the law in order to final-

ize the amendments to the treaty by February 10 as promised.

He also called on the Jordanians to complete their legislation

on time.

He praised the agreement with its land lease and exchange clause for farmers.

Knesset defeats bill exiling families of suicide terrorists

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset yesterday defeated Tzahi Hanegbi's bill to immediately deport the families of suicide terrorists 48-32, after the coalition turned out in full force.

Justice Minister David Liba'i noted that several opposition MKs were noticeably absent. Likud MK Ze'ev Binyamin Begun voted with the coalition.

Hanegbi said his bill was an attempt to cope with the problem of suicide attacks in the face of government inaction.

"After the [Beit Lid] attack, [Prime Minister Yitzhak] Rabin

faced the people and said empty words. Nothing. Words without meaning," Hanegbi said.

In his response, Liba'i said the government let the security forces get on with their work.

"We know terror brings pain. We know we need to stop the terror, but we also know that terror does not represent a threat to our existence... Why should anyone think that if death does not deter someone from carrying out these attacks, the threat that their families will be deported will?" he said.

Trade delegation meets with Jordanians today

JOSE ROSENFELD

ISRAELI and Jordanian trade delegations are to meet today in the Jordanian town of Dir Ala, to try to break the impasse over customs discounts for Jordanian imports, which is holding up the Most Favored Nation trade agreement between the two countries.

Industry and Trade Ministry's foreign trade administration director Zohar Peri, who heads the

Israeli delegation, said that both the Jordanian list of goods, as well as the tariff discounts requested, are excessive.

"We can't give them all of what they are asking for," he said.

A source close to the negotiations said the Jordanians are looking for significant trade concessions to ensure that the eco-

nomic benefits from the agreement will be clearly apparent. The Israelis, however, are concerned that should the preferential customs treatment given to Jordanian goods be too generous, the Jordanians will have no incentive to eventually sign a free-trade agreement.

One of the declared aims of

both sides is the signing of a free-trade agreement at a later stage.

Although both Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein agreed to conclude the trade pact by January 25, the Jordanian delegation is in no rush to sign an agreement, another source said.

"The Jordanians are not ready to sign unless they will get substantial achievements," the source said.

Thousands attend opposition rally

SARAH HONIG

also took part.

Netanyahu listed five steps the government should take immediately: "It must restore full and exclusive responsibility for security in the territories to the IDF and the General Security Service, and not depend on the PLO and its various armed forces," he said. "The government must allow the IDF full freedom of action and remove the political fetters which now bind its hands. This includes allowing Israeli forces to operate when need be inside Gaza, as well."

"No more Gazas should be created. Plans for the IDF's pullback from cities in Judea and Samaria and [the army's] redeployment must be called off."

"There must be absolutely no more releases of convicted terrorists," he said, adding, "the government must revive the trust of those Arabs who cooperated with Israel and helped foil terror

outrages." Netanyahu lauded Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer's remarks in the US, in which he said that level of personal security is nil, and the nation is disillusioned with the peace process.

"I agree with Rabin that his ministers sometimes talk nonsense," Netanyahu said. "He himself has called Labor's MKs morons. But what Ben-Eliezer said is an exception. He described things as they really are. He told the truth."

Tsomet's Raphael Eitan called on the government to "put an immediate end to the folly it calls the peace negotiations."

The Oslo process is dead, and the government would do well to realize this and issue a formal death certificate. It is unthinkable that we talk while the terrorists butcher," he said. Eitan also demanded that the IDF be given a freer hand and called for increased settlement in the territories.

Fighting continues in security zone

DAVID RUDGE

FIGHTING continued inside the security zone yesterday, as Staff-Sgt. Yair Tzafrir, killed in Tuesday's clash with Hizbullah gunmen, was laid to rest in Kibbutz Gvat's cemetery.

Hundreds of people attended the funeral for the 21-year-old Golani Brigade soldier who was shot in the neck by a single bullet during the firefight near Yatar village, north of the zone.

Tzafrir is survived by his parents, three sisters and a brother, as well as his grandparents, who were among the founding members of Gvat.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, comrades in arms, as well as relatives, members of the kibbutz and Arabs from neighboring villages, were among the mourners.

Lebanese newspapers reported yesterday that two Hizbullah gunmen, both residents of Yatar village, were killed and two others wounded in the clash.

Further fighting was reported inside the security zone yesterday when gunmen fired several mortar rounds at an IDF position in the Talousa region, in the central sector of the zone.

SUMMIT

(Continued from Page One)

sion of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Israeli and US officials said all four participants have something to gain. The summit is designed to return Rabin to his role of peacemaker, and get him off the defensive he has been on since the Beit Lid attack.

It also allows Egypt to assume its perceived central role as Middle East peace leader, as well as improve its relations with the US. These relations have suffered because of Cairo's strained ties with Israel and reports of its close cooperation with Libya.

For the Palestinians, the event is expected to be a catalyst for restarting peace talks. It also enables Arafat to be seen in a statesman-like role.

For Jordan, it provides a "very important" Arab imprimatur for the peace treaty with Israel, helping end Amman's isolation in the region, officials noted.

Arafat's economic adviser Khaled Salam said the PA and the Israeli government have both lost a lot of support recently.

"The Israeli government is losing support because of the attacks, and the PA is losing support because of Israeli reprisal measures, like the closure of the territories," he said.

According to Salam, Arafat will bring up the problems he is facing from the closure and the issue of separation. Rabin, he said, will raise the issue of Islamic violence and security measures against activists in Gaza.

Lamia Lahoud and Hillel Kuttler contributed to this report.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Driver killed in North

A driver was killed when he apparently drove onto the shoulder, then veered back into the oncoming lane, hitting a large truck near Kibbutz Merhavim on the Afula-Beit She'an road yesterday afternoon.

Two wounded in Nablus

Two Palestinian youths were lightly to moderately wounded by IDF gunfire in Nablus yesterday. The IDF said soldiers fired at stonethrowers, but local residents said three undercover soldiers went to the house of Hamas activist Mohammed Abu Az, 21, and shot him and another man who came to his aid.

In Hebron, a Palestinian was lightly wounded when soldiers responded with gunfire to the sound of shots coming from an alley.

Man found shot dead near Kalkilya

The body of a Lod man, 23, was found yesterday afternoon near Kalkilya. Police arrested two Israeli Arabs in connection with the killing, and said it seemed the motives for it were criminal.

Collaborators may have helped bombers

One or both of the Beit Lid bombers were driven into Israel from Gaza by collaborators from the nearby Israeli-protected village of Dahiniyeh, local people in Rafiah claim. PA political and security sources could not confirm the reports.

Palestinian teachers protest

Dozens of Palestinian teachers who teach in eastern Jerusalem schools tried to break through the army roadblock at the entrance to the southern Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo yesterday, to protest the continuation of the closure on the territories. The teachers, from the Bethlehem and Hebron areas, were intercepted by soldiers, who pushed them back.

Palestinian police bulldoze illegal homes

Palestinian police yesterday demolished two houses in Gaza City's Sheikh Redwan neighborhood that had been built illegally on authority land. Dozens of armed policemen accompanied the bulldozers that destroyed the houses, leaving 24 members of the Tahlut family homeless.

Soldier suffers head wounds in Gaza

An IDF soldier suffered moderate head wounds yesterday evening when he was attacked by stonethrowers north of Kfar Darom.

Witness in Deri trial declared hostile

The Jerusalem District Court yesterday declared Ya'acov Ben-Ezra, who is testifying in the bribery trial of former interior minister Aryeh Deri, a hostile witness, thus giving the prosecution greater latitude in questioning him.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, ace of hearts, seven of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

State: Arafat bodyguard admitted by mistake

EVELYN GORDON

A FORMER bodyguard to Yasser Arafat, who last week petitioned the High Court of Justice against his expulsion, was allowed into the country by mistake, the state told the High Court yesterday.

Mohammed Jamil Isawi was granted a 60-day permit to visit his sister in Jerusalem on December 4, but the Interior Ministry ordered his expulsion on January 15. He was arrested upon returning from a visit in Gaza the following day, but petitioned the court against the expulsion.

Isawi argued that he had a legal permit, and had done nothing since coming to Israel to justify the expulsion.

In the state's response, government attorney Michael Blass said

the permit had been granted due to "administrative error," and the state should not be bound by this error, since the General Security Service considered Isawi a security risk.

In 1994, Blass said senior Palestinian officials asked Israel to allow Isawi to move to Gaza or Jericho, but at the GSS's recommendation, the request was rejected "for security reasons."

The response did not detail these reasons, but Reuters last week quoted security sources as saying the objections stemmed from Isawi's participation in numerous terrorist attacks against Israelis before the Oslo accord.

When the GSS became aware

of Isawi's presence, Blass said, it asked the ministry to expel him. Isawi appealed the decision to the ministry, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in his role as interior minister, rejected the appeal.

Blass argued that the ministry has every right to expel someone admitted by mistake, if he is being expelled for good reasons. No foreigner has an absolute right to be here, he said.

Furthermore, he said, the petition is irrelevant, because Isawi's permit would have expired in two days anyway, and the state has no intention of renewing it. As for Isawi's request not to be expelled to Jordan, for fear he would be arrested there because he lacks residency rights, this is not the state's concern, Blass said.

Ark dedicated at Jericho synagogue

HERB KEINON

WITH Palestinian policemen looking on, a group of 60 yeshiva students danced in the courtyard of Jericho's Shalom al Yisrael Synagogue yesterday, celebrating the dedication of a new ark.

"The settlers did not cause us any problem, so we didn't bother them during their prayer," one Palestinian policeman told Army Radio. "The synagogue is a religious place, and the Palestinian Authority is obligated to allow freedom of worship there."

Koby Zilber, director of the yeshiva located at the site of the

synagogue, said the ceremony went off without any problems.

The ark was donated by the family of Netanel Sitani, an officer in the security forces who was killed last year in a car accident. Sitani studied at Yeshivat Beit El, and his class went to the yeshiva for the ceremony.

Classes are held in the yeshiva six days a week, from sunrise to sundown, except on Friday, when the students leave the site earlier for Shabbat.

Students do not sleep at the site.

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Chechen town packed with civilians erupts in fighting

SAMASHKY, Russia (AP) — A Chechen town packed with refugees erupted in new fighting yesterday, only hours after residents mournfully loaded trucks full of corpses from a fierce overnight assault.

Carloads of residents fleeing the attacks on Samashky described a hellish night in which Russian forces pummeled the town from three sides with tanks and artillery, and helicopters strafed it for hours with machine-gun fire, they said.

Many homes were reported destroyed and several fires were visible from a Russian checkpoint 3 kilometers from the center of Samashky, a town largely untouched by the war until this week.

The Russian attack appeared to be the bloodiest yet in a week that has seen the Chechnya war expand to more outlying areas of the secessionist republic.

It came amid mounting international criticism, including a US State Department report yesterday that blasted Moscow for numerous human-rights violations, including excessive force in Chechnya.

The battle for Grozny also raged on unchecked. Russian doctors treating soldiers who

were transported from the battered capital to Beslan said clashes had erupted south of the Sunzha River. The river snakes through Grozny and has served as a dividing line between Russians to the north and Chechens to the south.

Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Andrei Antonov told the ITAR-Tass news agency that Russian marines were now controlling the bridges over the river.

Shaken refugees from Samashky, 30 kilometers west of Grozny, streamed into the neighboring Russian region of Ingushetia. Several women were in tears as they stood at a muddy crossroads collecting themselves. Men wearing brown fur hats and hateful scowls shook their fists and swore revenge.

"It was terrible," said Usman Borzgov, 60, standing beside a battered orange bus that brought several dozen residents to safety.

"And now our fighters will round up more guys and attack the Russians back."

"The Russians are not interested in catching (Chechen President Dzhokhar) Dudayev," said 31-year-old Zia Avtorkhanov. "They're interested in killing Chechen people." (AP)

Italy's conservative premier finds backers on the left

ROME (AP) — Lamberto Dini's path from arch-conservative cabinet minister to deficit-battling premier has been paved by an atypical ally: the party that still displays the hammer and sickle.

The former Communist party and its left-leaning backers voted in favor of Dini in the Senate yesterday to help seal approval for Italy's 54th postwar government — whose stated mandate is to chop away at pensions and oth-

er programs defended by the left. The vote was a near replay of last week's showdown in the lower house of parliament.

But this time, more than 100 senators, mainly Berlusconi's bloc, skipped the vote altogether since Senate rules count an abstention as a "no" vote. The rest of the Senate voted 191-17 in favor of Dini's two-week-old government, composed of scholars, judges and business executives.

London, Dublin deny plan to rule N. Ireland

Major goes on TV to calm Protestant fears of unification

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain and Ireland tried frantically yesterday to keep the Northern Ireland peace process afloat by denying they had plans for joint sovereignty over the British-ruled province.

Pro-British Protestant politicians reacted with fury to a newspaper report that the two governments were poised to agree to establish cross-border economic bodies between Northern Ireland and Ireland with radical execu-

tive powers.

As British Prime Minister John Major prepared to make a rare broadcast to the nation later yesterday to calm Protestant fears, Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew assured parliament nothing had been agreed.

Major's minority government is vitally dependent on the parliamentary support of Protestant Unionist politicians.

They read the leaked report in *The Times* as confirmation of

their worst fears that Northern Ireland would one day be reunited with the predominantly Catholic republic of Ireland after seven decades of partition.

Mayhew said no political changes in Northern Ireland, which has been at peace for five months after rival republican and Protestant guerrillas called off a 25-year-old civil war, were possible without the consent of the province's Protestant majority. In a hastily arranged statement

to parliament, he said Britain would not agree to give Dublin joint authority over Northern Ireland's affairs. Nor could it agree to propose any all-Ireland body that was autonomous.

Mayhew said the *Times* report was misleading, but he was careful not to close the door completely on arrangements that would give Dublin a say in Northern Ireland.

"A body that was accountable to a Northern Ireland elected as-

sembly, which would delegate authority to those of its members discharging its functions, is a different matter.

"Such a body, empowered in that way and accountable to the assembly, making common cause North and South in areas of common interest and mutual benefit, might well get consent," Mayhew said in a statement to the House of Commons.

Both the British and Irish governments condemned the leak.

Serbs allow supplies through

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — UN trucks drove across Sarajevo airport into the Bosnian capital yesterday for the first time in six months after Bosnian Serbs allowed the supply route to reopen to UN and relief agencies.

The two trucks carried glass and timber for a UN-sponsored reconstruction project in the besieged city over one of the so-called "blue routes," which the Serbs had closed to all traffic last July after an attack on a British UN convoy.

Fighting eased between Bosnian government troops and Muslim rebels allied to Serbs in the northwestern Bosnian enclave of Bihac, scene of the worst clashes since a shaky cease-fire began January 1.

Dutch work frantically to reinforce dikes

TIJEL, Netherlands (AP) — Whole towns in eastern Netherlands were emptied of people yesterday for fear rising river waters would break through soaked dikes in the worst Dutch flooding in 40 years.

The Netherlands is bearing the downstream brunt of storms and flooding that battered parts of Germany, France and Belgium this past week. Up to 250,000 people were being evacuated from low-lying areas in the south-eastern Netherlands.

Diana's new 'do draws mixed review

LONDON (Reuters) — Princess Diana's bold, sleeked-back hairstyle, revealed at a New York fashion gala drew mixed reviews yesterday after she arrived back in Britain from her one-day visit.

Diana dazzled America's top fashion designers when she attended the Council of Fashion Designers annual awards dinner on Monday in a slinky, low cut dress sporting the wet vamp look made famous by Madonna.

New York fashion experts raved about the new look favored by fashion models and film stars but reaction in Britain was more muted.

"Gone was the shy shop-girl... replaced instead by a confident female version of Wall Street's Gordon Gekko," said London's *Evening Standard*.

But not everyone was pleased with Diana's new image.

"The old hairstyle was frumpy, but at least it was pretty. This one makes her look like a victim," said Kate Reardon, style director of *Tatler* magazine.

Jeff Banks, presenter of Britain's *The Clothes Show*, was also not impressed. "She has a lovely face but her nose is quite prominent and with a feature like that it is not a good idea to grease the hair back," he told *The Daily Mail*.

Brian's top-selling *Sun* newspaper even launched a phone-in for readers to express their views.

Only Diana's hairdresser Sam McKnight knows for sure why she decided to try the new look, but some British tabloids were speculating that she could be changing her short, permed hairstyle for a sexier image in preparation for a permanent move to the US.

Even as Diana presented an award to Elizabeth Tilberis, edi-



Princess Diana arrives at the Council of Fashion Designers Awards in New York on Tuesday. (Reuters)

tor of *Harper's Bazaar* magazine, at the fashion dinner member of the audience shouted "Move to New York!" Diana's navy designer dress

also revealed a fuller figure, dispelling recent reports that the estranged wife of Prince Charles had been battling against a bout of the slimming disorder bulimia.

Somalis plunder former US Embassy

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Somali militiamen swarmed into UN headquarters yesterday moments after the last peacekeepers pulled out and began picking the compound clean.

Looters carted away wood, chains, sewage pumps, wiring, light fixtures and other salvageable items in cars, trucks and wheelbarrows. Some looters complained that more valuable items had been removed.

It was the second time in four years that the former US Embassy has been looted. It was stripped in January 1991 after American diplomats abandoned it during fighting that toppled former dictator Mohammed Siad Barre.

Washington later transferred the 32-hectare compound to the United Nations, which is giving it back to the United States as its mission in Somalia ends.

The compound contains five major permanent buildings and several lesser ones. The United Nations put up hundreds of prefabricated structures, but most were dismantled and removed before the compound was abandoned.

Hundreds of armed men loyal to warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid took over the compound, located in the southern half of Mogadishu controlled by Aidid. Rival warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammed controls the northern part of the capital.

UN peacekeepers, scheduled to withdraw from the country by April, stopped using the buildings in mid-January and moved to more secure airport property.

No accord in Peru, Ecuador talks

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) — Ecuador and Peru ended a first day of negotiations to settle a territorial dispute yesterday having achieved little progress in their attempt to implement a cease-fire to end a spate of border clashes, a spokesman at the talks said.

"There has been progress but not as much as originally hoped," Brazilian Foreign Relations vice-minister Sebastiao do Rego Barros told reporters at the end of a marathon session of negotiations.

He said a cease-fire designed to end border clashes in a patch of Amazon jungle along the two countries' common border "was agreed upon but not implemented."

Rego Barros represents Brazil as one of the four guarantor countries, which also include Argentina, Chile and the United States, behind a 53-year-old treaty aimed at ending a historical territorial dispute between the two countries.

Since the latest clashes erupted last Thursday, Ecuador says 31 men have died, 21 of them Peruvians. Peru has confirmed five Peruvians died and two were wounded.

Simpson prosecution begins with allegations of abuse, adultery

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A bruised and hysterical Nicole Brown Simpson told police that a New Year's Eve fight with her husband began soon after he had sex with another woman in their house, an officer testified.

Ms. Simpson said her husband, former football star O.J. Simpson, climbed into bed with her after having sex with the woman. Detective John Edwards recalled Tuesday. Although the altercation itself had already been widely reported, Edwards' testimony made the fight look even more damaging to the former football hero and sometime actor.

Simpson, once of America's best known and loved athletes, is charged with the knifing deaths of his ex-wife and a male friend June 12.

Prosecutors say the New

Year's incident displays a pattern of abuse that eventually led to the murders.

The first three witnesses to testify Tuesday were a telephone operator who took her emergency call and two officers who investigated the altercation. Simpson eventually pleaded no contest and was sentenced to probation.

As giant photos of a bruised Ms. Simpson were projected on a courtroom screen, Edwards told jurors that she emerged from bushes wearing only a bra and muddy sweatpants and collapsed in his arms in the darkness, crying. "He's going to kill me!"

"I said, 'Who's going to kill you?'" recalled Edwards, who was a patrol officer responding to the call. "She said, 'O.J.'"

"I said, 'O.J. who? You mean

the football player?'"

"She said, 'Yes, O.J. Simpson the football player.'"

Edwards described Ms. Simpson's beaten face, cut left lip and bruised forehead.

"She said there was two other women living in the house and that O.J. Simpson had sex with one of them prior to going to bed that night with her," Edwards said, adding that he asked for no names.

He also told of a truculent Simpson who emerged from the house in his bathrobe, berated his wife and fled in his blue Bentley rather than face arrest.

"He seemed very furious," Edwards told jurors. "He said, 'I don't want that woman in my bed anymore. I've got two other women. I don't want that woman in my bed anymore.'"

O.J.'s book tops best-seller list

NEW YORK (AP) — Readers to O.J. Simpson: We want to hear you.

Days after its release, Simpson's book describing his version of events surrounding the murders of his ex-wife and her friend has rocketed to the top of America's best-seller lists.

I Want to Tell You tops the non-fiction and general interest lists released yesterday by *The Wall Street Journal* and heads USA Today's hardcover best seller list. The *New York Times* reported that it will top their non-fiction bestseller list for February 12, which is based on sales for the week ending January 28.

"It's a phenomenon, extraordinary — the fastest-selling book in Little, Brown history," said Beth

Davey, a spokeswoman for the publisher, Little, Brown and Co.

In the book, as in court, Simpson says he is innocent. His jailhouse account, co-authored by writer and neighbor Lawrence Schiller, could help defray the cost of his trial. Publishing industry sources have said the book drew an advance of more than \$1 million.

Davey said the book was shipped Friday and had a first printing of 500,000, and already has gone to a second printing of 100,000. Its list price is \$17.50. She said she could not provide sales figures for the 208-page book or for an audiotape version that was also doing well.

Broadway master George Abbott dies at 107

MIAMI (AP) — George Abbott, a Broadway legend who earned a Pulitzer Prize and scores of other honors while writing, directing, producing or acting in more than 120 plays, has died of a stroke. He was 107.

Abbott died Tuesday night at his home in Miami Beach, his wife said. "It was very peaceful," Joy Abbott said. "We were holding his hand. It was so peaceful. No pain or anything."

Abbott, whose stage career spanned more than eight decades and included the Broadway classics *Damn Yankees* and *The Pajama Game*, first appeared on the New York stage as an actor in

1913, when he was 26. He was still going strong well past the age of 100.

He directed a revival of his 1926 hit, *Broadway*, that opened on his 100th birthday in 1987, and in 1989, he wrote and directed *Frankie*, an off-Broadway musical adaptation of *Frankenstein*. In 1994, he helped revise the book for a Broadway revival of his '50s hit *Damn Yankees*.

He said he kept busy because "I'd hate not to have a job of some kind."

In the course of his career, Abbott worked with many of this century's legendary stage performers, including Ethel Mer-

man, Zero Mostel, Bob Fosse, Liza Minnelli and Gene Kelly.

"I loved George Abbott as a man and as a friend and as a great gentleman of the theater," Kelly said in a statement. "He was for me a teacher, a mentor and I will never be able to repay what I learned working for him and with him on several shows in the Broadway theater."

Twice, in 1934 and 1939, he was the director of five different plays that opened on Broadway in the same year. During an extraordinary 15-year stretch, 1948 through 1962, Abbott shows won 40 Tony awards, including five for himself personally as author,

director, or both.

The Tony-winning productions were *Where's Charley*, *Call Me Madam*, *Wonderful Town*, *The Pajama Game*, *Damn Yankees*, *New Girl in Town*, *Fiorello!*, *Take Her, She's Mine*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

Fiorello! also won Abbott the 1960 Pulitzer Prize and the Drama Critics Circle Award.

Among his collaborators in musicals were Leonard Bernstein, Rodgers and Hart, Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein, Irving Berlin, Frank Loesser and Stephen Sondheim.

THE JERUSALEM POST

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The new shape is body-skimming and tight, and the thin belt is just for decoration - not to hold the pants up. (Sivan Farag)

Thin is in - for belts

GLAD RAGS
VIDA ROBERTS

THESE are tight times in fashion. Winter comfort food has lots of women pulling clothes from the old "fat" side of their closets. That curbs the incentive to shop, even though stores are now in major markdown mode and bargains abound.

For spring, the industry is trying to drum up some excitement. The new shape is body-skimming and tight. Along those lines, one of the key items in many collections is a skinny belt-skinny as in width, not circumference.

We're talking 2 cm. max - with the advantage that it does not bind or cut the figure, but acts as an interesting detail.

Women who think a belt is for holding up a skirt or pants had better think again. At the designer collections in New York, the fashion pundits put a thin belt on anything and everything, including bare middles. It took only one day of week-long shows for the message to be branded into the fashion-consciousness.

Marc Jacobs wrapped a skinny belt on hot pants and satin leisure suits. Donna Karan put one on a red Hollywood halter dress. Randy Kemper finished fitted jackets with black patent. Nicole Miller showed reed-thin belts on romper suits and strapless dresses. Ralph Lauren belted floral dresses and snug knit sweater sets on the narrow, even though he took bows sporting a wrestling-trophy-sized metal buckle with his jeans.

The definitive narrow belts for spring are clean and tailored 1-cm. models in patent leather. In

black, white or red with a self-buckle, they were everywhere, looking their best on nipped outfits. At some designer price points, the leather is dyed to match, but always with some shine and polish.

Women who want to update their wardrobes could start with a narrow belt. That has a double advantage: A thin belt adds no visual kilos and can be adjusted as a diet takes hold.

Here are some points to consider before belting:

- Shop your own closet before heading for stores. Thin hasn't been in for years, but there may be some skinny oldies hanging around. Dust them off, give them a polish and look at them with a fresh eye.
- Shop the clearance racks. You may be able to snag some of the leftover thin winter models.
- Narrow belts enhance rather than hold, so don't expect them to pull a too-loose jacket or top into shape. They should sit easily at the waist of fitted clothing. If tightening the belt to a natural waist creates gathers and puckers, it's being paired with the wrong look.
- Belts are not just for tailoring. A sliver of sash on a tight tank dress or a ribbed sweater adds a serious touch to play clothes.

We're talking fashion here, not a solution for world peace, so if you like your big cinch belts, go ahead and wear them - the bigger the better. A companion trend for spring is the waist nipped by bands as wide as corsets. Hard to wear by all but the sylphlike.

Skinny belts are kinder. (The Baltimore Sun)

OFF THE SHELF MARTHA WEISLS

BREAKFAST was delivered to my front door one morning. It was a demonstration of a new service called Sunrise, which will bring breakfast to your doorstep for a small fee if you live in its delivery area.

So far, Sunrise is operating only in parts of North Tel Aviv and its northernmost suburbs (including Ramat Aviv, Shikun Dan and Zahala) and in parts of Ramat Gan. It plans to spread throughout the entire Dan Region and then to other cities.

My surprise sample breakfast arrived in a cardboard carton. There was a very fresh whole-wheat roll, a not-so-fresh croissant (which revived nicely in the microwave), a bottle of natural orange juice, a small carton of chocolate milk, and a dairy dessert in a plastic cup.

Sunrise's aim is to save you an early morning trip to the corner grocery. The service costs NIS 3.50 plus normal grocery-store prices for the products.

Sunrise Ltd. is the creation of a 24-year-old student of business administration, who has suspended his studies for some real-life experience. Gil Rakita got the idea from a doorstep breakfast service in California. The price list includes dairy products from Tnuva, Strauss and Yotvata, baked goods, soft drinks, beer, cigarettes and newspapers.

The company has its own warehouse in Or Yehuda, near Tel Aviv. Orders should be placed by telephone by 6 p.m. the previous day (03-674-7343). The customer chooses a delivery time between 4 a.m. and 10 a.m. The order is left outside the door, unless the client prefers that the delivery person ring.

Sandwiches for children to take to school can be ordered at NIS 1 apiece on bread, NIS 2.80 on a fresh roll. For an additional service charge of 50 agorot per item, virtually anything available in a supermarket can be obtained for the customer. This puts Sunrise in competition with the Super-Sol chain's Tele-Sol phone-order service and Blue Square Co-op's Co-Op Line which takes orders by phone, fax, or computer (via modem or E-mail).

"We're the only ones who deliver in the early mornings, except for some students around the country who do this on a much smaller, informal scale," Rakita says. Sunrise does it formally with printed bills and receipts. Customers are billed at the end of each month. As for the lack of warm croissants, Rakita says Sunrise may solve this by installing an oven in its warehouse.

BILTONG, a South African specialty consisting of dried strips of beef, is now being made here by the (nonkosher) meat processing firm Maadany (sic) Mizra. This is not the first local biltong, but it's the first from a major manufacturer.

The long, thin strips of beef, which resemble licorice sticks, are eaten as a snack, generally with beer or other alcoholic beverages. Because of the way it has been salted, seasoned and quick-dried, biltong keeps almost indefinitely without refrigeration.

The label (Hebrew only) says the product should be kept in a dry, well-ventilated place. A plastic cylinder with 100 grams retails for NIS 18. This, however, provides more than a dozen thin strips, between 12 cm. and 18 cm. long.



(clockwise from top:) Segal's Pepper Supreme sauce reads 'mild' but tastes hot; Sunrise Ltd. delivers breakfast to your home for a fee; the Super Sandwich from Tiv Tirat Tzvi consists of hamburger, hot dog, roast beef or turkey breast on a soft bun; Of Tov's Schnitzel Amity is available in your choice of four coatings.

Biltong was staple of the Voortrekkers, the Boers who settled the Transvaal.

ON THE kosher meat front, Tiv Tirat Tzvi, the religious kibbutz firm, has introduced its Super Sandwich. You need a microwave to heat the hamburger, hot dog, roast beef or turkey-breast sandwich on a soft bun with relishes so it gets properly hot in its cardboard sleeve. Each colorful box contains two sandwiches, and a hungry teenager could probably devour both in one sitting, but that would be an expensive meal. Rationed one to a customer, the two-pack has a tolerable price.

Hot dogs are NIS 9.80 per box of two; hamburgers, NIS 11.89; turkey sandwiches, NIS 12.80; and roast beef sandwiches, NIS 14.80.

The Super Sandwich is vitamin-enriched, and carries the kosher certification of Rabbi David Werner of Hadera. Labeling is bilingual.

The leading vegetarian manufacturer, Tivall, introduced the same type of microwave sandwiches on buns several months ago.

IT'S almost impossible to find a ready-made schnitzel of a quality my family will eat. Of Tov's latest Schnitzel Amity ("real schnitzel") is an exception.

We've tried and liked the chicken-breast type, in the green-bordered bag. It can be pan-fried, heated in a microwave oven, or baked in a regular or toaster oven. The other types are turkey breast with bread-crumbs coating (red-bordered bag), turkey with sesame seeds (orange), or turkey with a chips crumb coating (blue). The recommended price is NIS 19.90 for 700 grams.

The instructions are in English and Russian, the rest of the label in Hebrew only. It has a kosher Umehadran stamp from Rabbi A.D. Auerbach of Tiberias.

YOU CAN spice up a schnitzel or anything else with Segal's Pep-



per Supreme sauce, the latest nonalcoholic product from the Segal Bros. wineries. Though marked "mildly hot sauce," it is sharp enough to suit the hot-tongued members of my household. It contains a mixture of sweet and hot peppers in a teriyaki sauce.

A tall, slim bottle, with 500 ml., sells for NIS 15.50. It can be used to marinate meat and poultry, as well as a seasoning or table condiment. Labeling is bilingual.

CHOCOLATE CHIPS can be white, as Oppenheimer of Jerusalem is proving. But unlike its standard bittersweet chocolate chips, which are parve, the White Chocolate Chips are "kosher dairy," with Jerusalem Rabbinate supervision. A 300-gram bag sells for NIS 7.90. There are recipes on the label, two in Hebrew, but only one in English. The contents labeling leaves something to be desired. In both languages, the ingredients are listed simply as "white chocolate" - not very enlightening.

WHEN BUYING Strauss packaged salads this month, check if you're eligible for a free plastic placemat. The placemats have dramatic color photos of various vegetables, eight in all, with the Strauss logo discreetly in one corner.

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WANTED
"NATIONAL ENQUIRER" - 23 August '94; Hello magazine, mid-'94; Michael Jackson/Lisa Marie on cover. 03-6424970.
"MEIN BLAUES KLAVIER" - by Elise Lasker-Schüler, Jerusalem Edition, to buy. 04-581745.
COLOR TV - small, second-hand. 02-522487.
CRIB AND BABY CARRIAGE - for destitute immigrant mother. Alice. 02-721548.
CRADLE OR BASSINETTE - for newborn, good condition please. 02-711151.
MALE FOLK DANCER - as partner for woman folk dancer. 02-433239.
LOW AFBARE PARTNER - to qualify for naturalization to California. Jan. 31-Feb. 9. 02-710154.

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SOMEONE TO REPAIR - music box (sentimental value). 02-631110, mornings 7-9.
EXTERNAL 14,000 MODEM - V.90, color monitor. 02-864776.
FOLDING MASSAGE - treatment table. 02-415144.
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ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA - or Judaica, in good condition. 02-658220.
BARBOM - AT&T, MCI and SPRINT users. I need your help. 02-513741.
BOWL FOR OSTERIZER - blender. 02-581334.
CHESS SET - in wooden box, top quality. 02-861680.
MORSE KEY - in good condition. 02-408081.
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LOST - sold bracelet on Wednesday Jan-

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LOVELY CAT - neutered female, 1 1/2 years, healthy, friendly, playful, free to good home. 02-832214.
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FOUND - black male Labrador retriever, owner, call 02-732628.
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A show to the rescue

AS Foreign Minister Shimon Peres pointed out yesterday, today's Cairo summit meeting is unprecedented. It is the first time three Arab leaders meet together with an Israeli prime minister for a political discussion. Displaying again an incomparable sense for the dramatic, Peres called it a meeting of the "peace coalition," a signal to the world the Oslo agreement is alive, well, and going forward.

It is a tribute to Peres's diplomatic skills that he was able to round up King Hussein, Yasser Arafat, and Hosni Mubarak at short notice. He even persuaded President Bill Clinton to endow it with special significance by meeting with Peres in Washington immediately after.

But by describing every summit meeting as a breakthrough and assigning it great historic significance, Peres raises expectations that can seldom be fulfilled. Indeed, the gap between these expectations and the situation on the ground is becoming wider every day.

A realistic glimpse of what is happening away from the press conferences and solemn declarations was provided by Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shahak on Tuesday. Ben-Eliezer told Israeli reporters in Washington what all Israelis already know: the Oslo agreement, which created general euphoria immediately following the signing ceremony on the White House lawn, has been losing support in direct proportion to the increase in terrorism.

The most recent atrocity, the massacre at Beit Lid, has made it impossible for the government to implement the next stage of the agreement. The army will not withdraw from the Arab population centers in the foreseeable future, nor will the government allow the release of terrorists from Israeli jails.

Shahak has revealed what official pronouncements have been trying to fudge: that the Fatah, Arafat's own militia, has participated in a number of terrorist actions since the agreement was signed. This is not just another flagrant violation of the agreement. It is a clear indication not only that Arafat has failed to combat terrorism, but that he still resorts to violence whenever he finds it necessary. Indeed, Peres's reference to Arafat as a member of the "peace coalition" is nothing if not Orwellian.

Nor has the government succeeded in dissuading the Europeans from meeting with PLO

officials in Jerusalem's Orient House. The foreign ministers of France and Spain and the deputy foreign minister of Germany intend to meet Faisal Hussein in this Palestinian "foreign ministry" later this month. This, despite the recently passed legislation which enables the government to prevent such meetings, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's threat to abort the Oslo process if Orient House is used for such purposes.

To round out the gloomy picture, Shahak also said that, in the past few months, the PLO factions opposed to the agreement have increased their activities against Israel and its allies in southern Lebanon.

To rationalize this discrepancy between the rosy dream of peace and the dark Middle East reality, Peres has made yet another momentous announcement. From now on, nationalities do not exist in the region, he said. The Middle East is divided into a peace coalition of Arabs and Israelis on the one hand, and Arab and Israeli enemies of peace on the other.

It borders on the incredible that an Israeli foreign minister can compare Islamic terrorists with Israelis who, while desiring peace, doubt that the Oslo agreement can produce it. But what makes his perception of the situation even worse is that he has subscribed to the ludicrous notion that Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the radical PLO factions are killing Israelis because they want to destroy the Oslo agreement.

The fact is that what these groups want is not to stop the process, but to accelerate it. The "extremists," just as eager to have Israel leave the territories as the PLO "moderates," simply believe that since terrorism made Israel agree to withdraw, more terrorism will force it to withdraw faster. (Had Hamas and Islamic Jihad truly wanted to destroy the process, they could have done it overnight by attacking Arafat and his militia.) Indeed, Mubarak and Arafat have already said that the answer to Islamic terror is to hasten the pace of implementation. And they are echoed by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, who wants Israel to enter "final status" negotiations immediately.

Peres seems to believe that irreconcilable differences can be resolved with grandiose gestures and dramatic photo opportunities. The trouble is that his interlocutors prefer something more substantive - like Israeli concessions. And they seem to know that Peres will do almost anything not to spoil a good show.



Nothing is impossible

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

LAMBASTING the way Neville Chamberlain had tried to appease Hitler on the eve of World War II, Winston Churchill said: "If a prime minister makes a mistake, cover up for him." Then, pointing an accusing finger at Chamberlain, he added: "But if he is no good - poleax him."

Yitzhak Rabin's critics have repeatedly compared his appeasement policy toward Yasser Arafat as being as futile as Chamberlain's "peace in our time" approach to the Nazi chief.

Rabin's blunders are piling up - his zigzagging over the stock market profits tax is nothing short of farcical. His now-you-have-it, now-you-don't dithering could charitably be categorized as "mistakes."

But when it comes to a matter more vital than share gambling, then the finger of Churchill's ghost can justly be said to point straight between Rabin's eyes. For nothing is more important than preventing the sacrifice of yet more of Israel's young soldiers and civilians on the altar of the ill-conceived Oslo accords.

As defense minister in the national coalition government, Rabin failed to crush the intifada at birth, convinced that it was no existential threat to the country. It was a blunder compounded by the Likud's Yitzhak Shamir.

Rabin appears to have learnt nothing from that failure. This time, again as defense minister, he has done no more than wring his hands in the face of the jihad warriors' deadly suicide attacks. Arafat supports the jihad to the hilt, as he made crystal-clear in a broadcast from Gaza last month.

Rabin's feeble TV speech after the Beit Lid massacre appears to have awoken the country to the bankruptcy of his "peace" policy. Over 80 percent of Israelis polled regarded his words as doing nothing to contribute to their safety. The steep decline in his personal popularity sounds the death knell for Oslo.

Rabin ought to be aware that the growing threat of terrorist action is the result of his government's obsession about sticking to its present bankrupt policy. President Weizman's advice that the time has come to rethink the entire peace process should have given him pause for thought. After all, Weizman is a dove too.

Even more to the point, the head of the General Security Service, addressing the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to mark his forthcoming retirement, warned about the government's perilous course. His somber words were not those of a politician, or a personal adversary like Weizman. He is a professional. An expert on security matters.

He said that Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Arafat are united by a common denominator. Dedicated to jihad, they believe that the more terrorist attacks are launched against Israelis, the more the government will be ready to concede; and the larger the chunks of territory Israel will withdraw from.

The GSS boss said bluntly that terrorist acts are an integral part of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and PLO tactical policy.

VARIOUS government supporters have offered panaceas for the allegedly "incurable" problem of suicide bombers. They range from special dogs to sniff all Arabs for traces of explosives, to the impracticable solution of separation with security fences all over the country. Perhaps Israel could even resort to the policy of bury-

a lush descended on the area. Not a single terrorist attack occurred in Gaza for the next 15 years.

When Harel warned that KGB spies had penetrated Israel via the Soviet Embassy in Ramat Gan, timid government ministers said, "There are hordes of them. It's impossible to trap them. We cannot afford to upset Moscow anyway. Nothing can be done."

Ignoring the fearful voices, Harel sent a small, crack squad of GSS agents into action and a number of Russian spies were caught. That master operative Zvi Malchin, who was later to capture Eichmann in Argentina, personally bagged over a dozen communist agents in a very short space of time.

In the 1960s, when Syria began diverting some of Israel's water supply, Rabin himself handled the matter without provoking a full-scale war. He ordered tanks to open fire at long range, thus destroying the Syrian bulldozers and tractors.

Surely Rabin remembers how this particular "mission impossible" was achieved. Surely he realizes that even suicide bombers can be tamed by employing traditional Israeli ingenuity. Set up "think tanks" of present and past experts to do the job. Small teams of special units will surely succeed - as in the past. Let terrorists spend sleepless nights worrying, rather than Israeli mothers.

Or will Rabin succumb to the "poleaxed" fate proposed by Churchill for prime ministers who are simply no good at the job?

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

Mother of all slips

YOSEF GOELL

COL. Gershon Hacohen, commander of the vaunted 7th Armored Brigade, should have been summarily drummed out of the IDF after telling a mixed assembly of Jerusalem high-school pupils that "men are traditionally warriors, while women were always whores," and that in today's army, most of the women's work could be done better by computers and other machines.

Only after complaints by some of the girls present were published in the press, did Hacohen apologize and say he regretted the terrible slip of the tongue.

Some slip. To paraphrase another Middle Eastern macho, Saddam Hussein, this was the

The colonel should be fired for his 'whores' remark

Mother of All Slips. Hacohen was formally reprimanded by the chief of staff and by the commander of the Northern Command. Period.

This nice brothers-in-arms slap on the wrist is an outrage. I don't doubt that Col. Hacohen is quite a fighter. The IDF has obviously invested quite a bit in his training and advancement.

But I also know that he is guilty of no mere slip of the tongue - a common human failing. What he is guilty of is such egregious stupidity as puts into question his very judgment.

PERHAPS non-commissioned and junior officers are judged primarily by their gung-ho fighting spirit. Brigade commanders, however, must be assessed by their powers of judgment.

I wouldn't want to entrust my children to a senior officer who evinces such an abominable lack of judgment. In order to preserve public confidence, the IDF high command must overcome the natural tendencies of all Old Boys' clubs to lock arms against outside criticism, and rid itself as quickly as possible of a liability like Hacohen.

Why do the colonel's remarks require such an unequivocal response?

It is because what he said represents a sentiment that, while not necessarily being the majority opinion, is quite rife in the army. Letting him off with a mere reprimand in his personal record is tantamount to legitimizing the sexual harassment that is the outgrowth of such macho attitudes.

That men and women are sexual creatures, and that, at the age of 18, when they enter the army, both boys and girls are close to the height of their sexual drive, is no excuse for Col. Hacohen's derogatory remarks.

There could be no prostitution without clients. Throughout history the proportion of men who made use of prostitutes' services has been extraordinarily higher than the proportion of women who are whores, which fact forms the economic rationale of that profession.

The IDF is today faced with a novel situation in which it has a surplus of manpower, due to Israel's population growth of the last two decades and the recent wave of aliyah.

The army may be faced with a manpower glut, but it is also plagued with a serious shortage of highly educated inductees. Col. Hacohen notwithstanding, the average educational profile of 18-year-old girls is significantly higher than that of the boys.

If we are contemplating metamorphosing the IDF into a leaner, high-tech army, the role of women will be more important than ever before.

It is essential for the future of our security that our daughters continue to be as highly motivated as our sons to serve in the armed forces. To motivate them, and their parents, it is essential that the IDF high command clearly signal its appreciation of their talents and its determination to make the army a congenial, and even exhilarating, experience for our young women.

The most obvious such signal would be to cashier Col. Hacohen.

This is not an issue that should be exercising merely the women's lobby, but all of us.

The writer comments on public affairs

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BEERSHEBA ANIMAL SHELTER

Sir, - The Animal Shelter in Beersheba has moved to new premises. For the first time, the animals will have proper facilities and not merely a wired enclosure. This has taken years to achieve and it is finally within sight. Sadly, Nellie Lebedinsky, who for many years single-handedly ran the center, has died before seeing her dream come to completion.

At present, we have only had sufficient finances to complete the dog kennels at the new premises and these are already full; however, we are limiting the number of animals that we will keep. Unfortunately old and sick dogs have had to be euthanized, a procedure which nobody in the animal-care field likes, but a necessary one if we are to provide proper care for the healthy animals that we do have. Israel does not have a good track record for animal care, and pets frequently are treated as objects and not as sentient beings. We have a major task in front of us in terms of educating the public because, without this education, the whole exercise of trying to save stray animals will be in vain.

The Beersheba SPCA serves an area from south of Rehovot to north

of Eilat, in terms of kilometers, almost half of the country. At this stage, we are desperately short of funds, even for the day-to-day running of the shelter. Our van, the sole means of transport which we have, has been stolen and this has increased our financial load. We are thus appealing to the public to come forward and contribute towards a new van and towards assisting our shelter. We are embarking on an ambitious sterilization campaign involving both stray dogs and wild cats. This all costs money, which we do not have.

GLENDIA FAWBERT,
Committee Member,
Nellie Lebedinsky Animal Shelter,
P.O. Box 5023,
Beersheba.

EARTHQUAKES

Sir, - To the list of the major earthquakes of this century you published on January 18 another terrible one can be added, the Messina earthquake of 1908, in which 8,000 died. It upset Italy for years, because of its disastrous consequences.

B.R. SEGRE
Bat Yam.

ISRAELI DEMANDS

Sir, - Congratulations to your editorialist, to Oleg for his cartoon, and to Israel Zunder for his letter of January 24. At long last, Israelis naively committed to the "peace process" are beginning to come to their senses, even if it is tragically - needed one Islamic atrocity after another to bring this about.

Public opinion should now be galvanized for a short list of demands such as:

1. Reparations for Syrian bombardment of Israeli settlements (1948-67), killing of civilians, torture of prisoners and harboring of terrorists. Those who launch wars of aggression must pay a price for losing, which in Syria's case means the Golan.

2. A worldwide campaign to eliminate those sponsoring, funding, or sheltering Islamic terror organizations.

3. Proper budgetary allocations for loyal minority groups such as the Druse coupled with tough measures

against Israeli Arab fifth-columnists.

4. Jewish self-respect at the highest level. If Israelis in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, or anywhere else cannot walk and travel safely, Palestinians in Gaza, Jericho, or elsewhere should not expect to be "more equal than others." And if we cannot participate in a Cairo book fair, Egyptians should be excluded from the one held in Jerusalem.

DR. GABRIEL A. SIVAN
Jerusalem.

TERRORISM

Sir, - I read your article of January 23, "Hamas and Islamic Jihad have changed the rules of the game." You mention some things that can be done to reduce terrorism. You don't mention the one fool-proof, guaranteed method: every time a few gets killed by Arab terror, a new settlement goes up in his name.

Netanya. HARRY WEBER

TUMORS

Sir, - On your front page of January 9, an operation is reported under the heading, "Doctors remove 15-kilo tumor from woman." It is suggested that the tumor was so large that "it will probably make the Guinness Book of World Records." This is absolutely not the case. I have reported at an international congress that I removed a 25-kilo tumor from a leper at Albert Schweitzer's hospital in Lambarene. At the same congress, Professor Richard "Dick" Symonds, the chief at the Mayo Clinic, informed us he had successfully removed an ovarian cyst weighing 198 pounds (90 kilos). That, as far as I know, is the biggest mass removed from a patient.

Incidentally, the first successful removal of an ovarian cyst was done by Ephraim McDowell, an American doctor. It was done without anesthesia on a kitchen table in 1809. Whenever one has to operate to remove these massive tumors, it is often necessary to get help to plan how to actually lift the mass. I think it fair to say that, at times, you have to remove the patient from the mass.

S.M. JOEL-COHEN, M.D.
Herzliya.

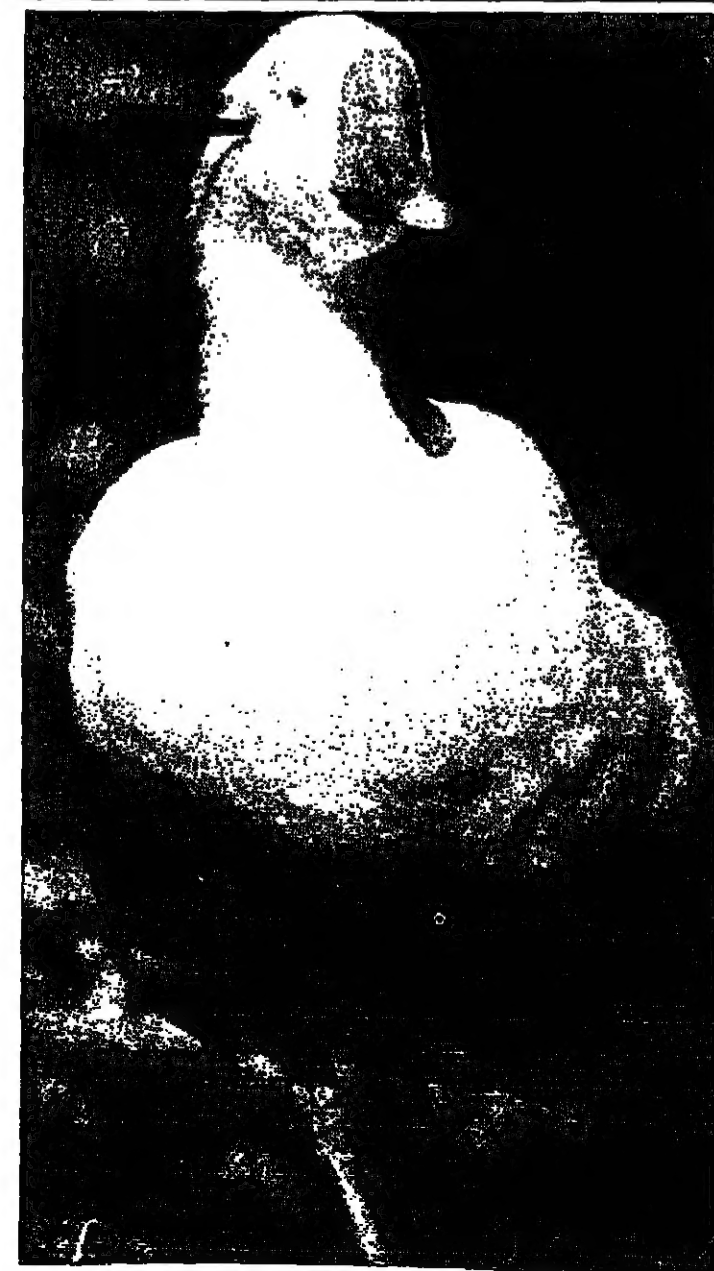
COMPLETE SEPARATION

Sir, - I did not think that immigrating to Israel meant that I would be relegated to a ghetto. Peace does not mean separation of peoples. Peace means that the people of the various countries in the region can mingle freely without stationing an entire army on their borders. If this kind of peace cannot be attained, then the current "peace" negotiations are a complete failure. If we end up with a "complete separation" peace, we have accomplished nothing but to give the enemy (until we do have real peace, the Palestinians are still classified as the enemy) a spring-board from which to harass our people. This is not peace.

The Palestinian Authority must take the initiative and destroy its enemies and our enemies. I refuse to hide behind a barbed-wire fence and allow my government to say this is the way to peace.

A. SHERMAN
Ra'anana.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



It's had enough this goose has to go through life with a crossbow bolt in its brain; it's also missing a leg. On the positive side, it was found in California, so somebody is sure to adopt it and lavish millions to give it a good life.

501 من الامارات

Your successful aliya helps your family integrate

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
I came on aliya with my mother and two younger siblings a year ago. My mother, who is divorced, has found it difficult to manage with the new language, and with my sister and brother, who have had a hard time adjusting.

My mother is becoming more and more dependent on me for help, both technical and emotional. But I, too, am trying to adjust, to fit in at the university, with studies and friends. I feel that my mother is putting too big a burden on me.

But I also understand her position. Am I being too selfish to want to focus on finding a niche for myself? I just don't know how to balance everything.

Adjustment Anxious
Jerusalem

Dear AA,
Seeking to create a niche for yourself is not selfish. It should, in fact, be helpful to your mother that you are able to look outside of the home for stimulus and support.

This is not to say you should ignore your mother's difficulty. It is responsible and considerate of you to be concerned about your family. It is right for you to help out. However, it is not your job to be a spouse-replacement for your mother. Nor is it healthy for either of you. Mother-daughter entanglements are complicated enough without the added aliya adjustment.

Before your ambivalence turns into seething resentment, you should tell your mother how you feel. Perhaps she has been so preoccupied with the obvious that she has overlooked the subtle.

Dear Ruthie,
After a long separation from my wife - at her initiative - we got back together. It has been working out very well, and our two children are really relaxed for the first time in ages.

My problem, I'm very attracted to a woman who started working for me. The breakup had nothing to do with infidelity, but this time I'm afraid of losing my self-control.

At a point such as this in our fragile marriage, it would have terrible consequences. I want our marriage to work this time.

Flirting with Danger
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Flirting,
There's nothing unusual about lusting after a woman at work. In this case, however, it may have to do with some ambivalence regarding your reconciliation with your estranged wife.

Believing that your marriage is too fragile to withstand infidelity, you also believe that having an affair would lead to divorce. You claim to want your marriage to work this time.

Your cry for help, then, is puzzling. Either you are seeking some kind of "papal dispensation" to commit a naughty deed, or you're not as committed to your marriage as you think. The fact that you developed such a strong attraction at this point in your marital life is probably not coincidental.

What you should be pondering now is whether you really believe in the choice you made. If you do, then stick to it. A cold shower every now and then might be advisable.

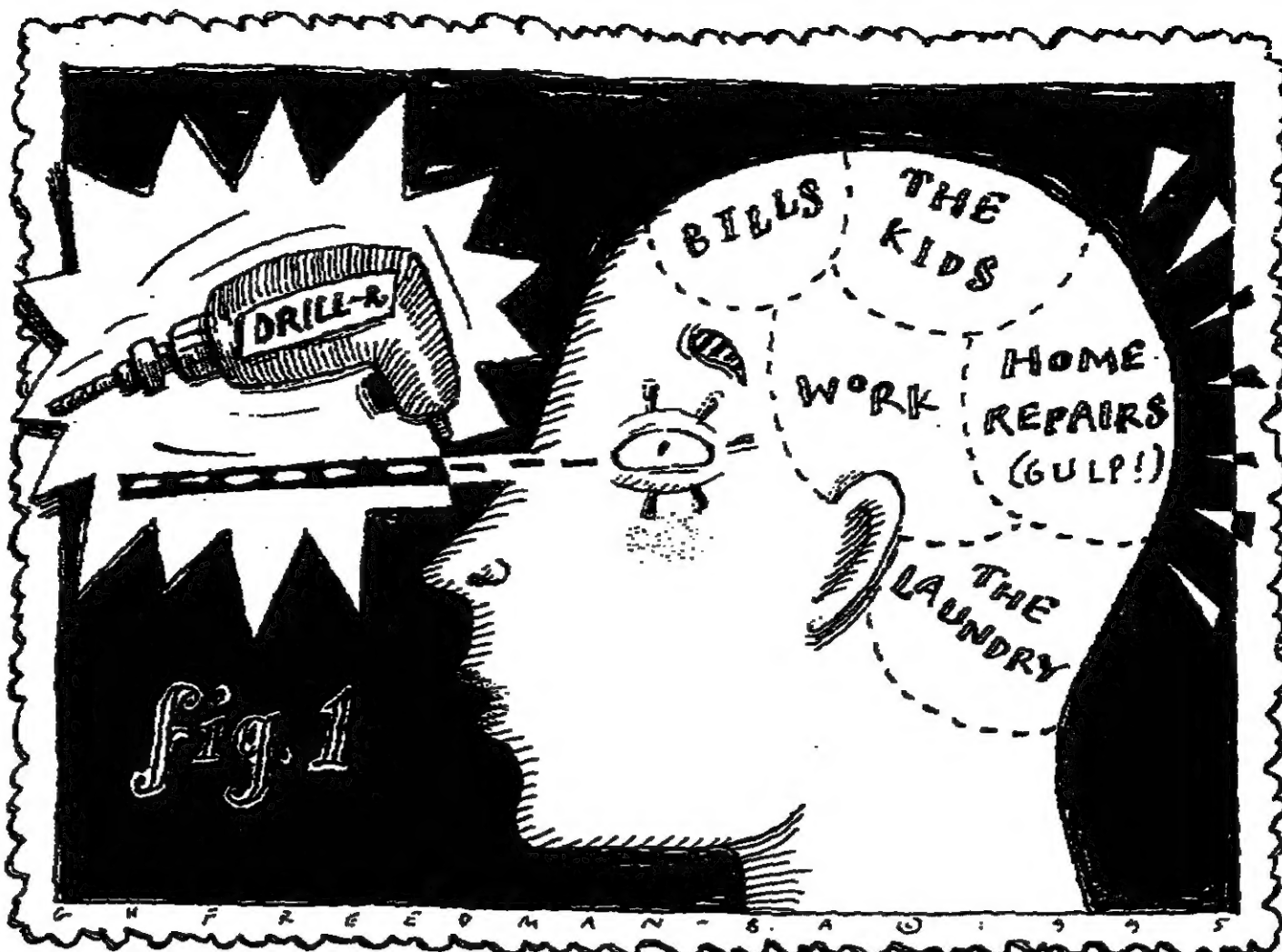
Dear Ruthie,
I've just gotten over a terrible flu which, unfortunately, I gave to my whole family. My problem is that it's left me feeling depressed - something I've never been before. Is there any way I can get rid of this awful feeling? I'd love to get back to normal.

Flu Blue
Mevaseret Yerushalayim

Dear Flu Blue,
A bad case of the flu can leave even the most cheerful among us down in the dumps. Infecting the rest of the family is even worse, because no sooner do you begin to get your strength back, than you're back on your feet playing Florence Nightingale. It's no wonder you're feeling awful. If this is the reason for your blues, then you will surely be back to normal when the whole family is healthy again.

However, if you are actually depressed, then the flu is not the cause. It might be a trigger of some kind. If the awful feeling persists even after you are all in good physical health, then you might consider seeking professional help.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)



These tools can do most jobs

FIX IT YOURSELF
TAL KATZ

HOW often do you eye with envy a friend who breezes through a home repair, especially when the same thing's been broken in your home for months?

Some of us just weren't born with that knack for knobs and nails, that interest in the way things are put together and work. For us, even the simplest repair is daunting, and the expression "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" means: If it's broken, learn to live without it.

We suffer the misery of moody appliances, backed-up drains and cracked plaster until our resistance cracks and we spend a fortune on a professional.

This column will try to make sense of the mysterious business of screwdrivers and silicone, light fixtures and lubricants that the unhandy hold in such awe.

To fix anything, you'll need basic tools. For more complex jobs, you can buy other tools as needed. Buy such supplies as glue, sandpaper and bolts when you need them for the task at hand.

Some shops - particularly the large hardware chains - are well suited to serving inexperienced DIY-ers. The chains have wider selections and lower prices than small, neighborhood hardware stores, and also offer discounts.

Before gasping at the prospect

of doling out a lot to stock up on tools, keep in mind that it is rare to find a repairman - whether a plumber, electrician or carpenter - who will even cross your threshold for less than NIS 100. Even an expensive item, like an electric drill, will pay back its cost after the first few jobs.

The common local terms are given in parentheses; the prices are averages based on visits to several stores.

The tool box (*argaz klei avoda*)

• Hammer (*paish*) - preferably half-kilo claw hammer, with wooden handle. NIS 10.

• Screwdrivers (*navregim*) - A set which includes three of each type: straight and X-shaped (Phillips), in different sizes. The tips should be hardened to avoid

damaging the screws, and the handles should provide a comfortable grip. NIS 10-NIS 12 per screwdriver. Sets tend to be

cheaper per screwdriver, though these do not always include the size you need.

• Adjustable wrench (*mafteah shvodi*) - For up to 20-mm. bolts. NIS 15.

• Self-locking pliers (*plier pat-*

ent) - 10 cm. long. NIS 20.

• Pliers (*plier*) - With plastic or rubber handle, for safety. NIS 10-NIS 15.

• Long-nose pliers (*shpitz plier*) - With plastic or rubber handle. NIS 10.

• Wire cutter (*cutter*) - With plastic or rubber handle. NIS 10.

• Wire stripper (*megaleh huim*) - With plastic or rubber handle. NIS 6.

• File (*p'tzira*) - One for metal, one for wood, each 25-30 cm. long. NIS 6-NIS 10 each.

• Pincers or nail outener (*tzivat*) - For removing nails. NIS 6.

• Wood saw (*massor etz*) - Approximately 50 cm. long. NIS 15.

• Hack saw (*massor barzel*) - It is sufficient to have blades, which are replaceable, with 24 teeth per inch. NIS 10-30.

• Heavy-duty scissors (*misparayim*) - For cutting thick materials. NIS 20.

• Utility knife (*sakin yapanit*) - Large size. NIS 4-NIS 5.

• Tape measure (*meter*) - Preferably metal. 3 to 5 meters. NIS 10-15.

• Tester (*tester*) - For testing presence of current. NIS 2.

• Electric drill (*makdeha*) -

Preferably a well-known brand name, but not rechargeable. At least 10-mm. chuck, with right-left rotation, variable speed, and hammer-drill (*rotor*) capability. NIS 300-NIS 500 (a less versatile drill can cost around NIS 200).

• Drill bits (*makdehim*) - For concrete and walls (*makdeh vi-dia*) in three diameters: 5mm., 6.35mm., and 7mm. For all other surfaces (*makdeh barzel*): assortment of bits ranging from 2mm. to 10mm. It is cheaper to purchase the bits individually, rather than in a set. Up to NIS 2 per bit (except high-speed steel, which is more expensive).

Having the tools is only part of the preparation, however. First and foremost, you should get to know your home. Familiarize yourself with each source of water, electricity and gas. Where is your fuse box? Do you know

which circuit breakers control which sockets? Where is your water meter and the valve for shutting the water to your home? Where do you turn off the gas, locally and centrally?

EACH WEEKLY column will be dedicated to a different household repair. If you have a question or can suggest simple solutions to annoying problems, write to: Fix It Yourself, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Now there's a card for every case

LIFE-STYLE

LAURA SESSIONS STEPP

DID your friend have a miscarriage? You say you've divorced your husband but want to drop a note to his parents? Your dad divorced and remarried and you've got to send a card to the wife?

No problem. Chances are at least one of the approximately 1,000 greeting-card publishers in the US has designed a card that will fill the bill. As Americans become increasingly comfortable discussing heretofore unmentionables, card makers are cashing in on what once was the province of the psychiatrist's couch: job loss, relationship failure, drug and alcohol recovery, infertility, as well as death, divorce and remarriage.

Small alternative card companies often see these needs first, to be followed cautiously by the three giants controlling 85 percent of the market: Hallmark, American Greetings and Gibson.

Open Designs Inc. of Middletown, Rhode Island, is one example, coming out last spring with a card line titled *Honest Voices* and started by Ken Rosenthal, a psychologist. Rosenthal says he was inspired when he went searching for a Mother's Day card for his ex-wife and "nothing was appropriate."

This spring, American Greetings will introduce a similar line called *Awakenings* for people recovering from some type of addiction. "Happy Anniversary," says one prototype on the front, and on the inside: "On a whole year, one day at a time."

The industry's Greeting Card Association reports that while sales of many traditional categories of cards are flat, these "non-occasion" cards are on the rise.

"People have all sorts of needs that no one bothered to talk about before," says Victor Gelman, president of Carole Joy Creations Inc., a 10-year-old line of cards for African Americans based in Danbury, Connecticut.

"We live so far apart from our families and friends, we feel we're losing contact," says Ethel Beun, who owns Unique, a card and gift shop in Alexandria, Virginia.

But why don't people put their own thoughts to paper, particularly in trying circumstances? Part of the answer may be time; but part of it must be that while Americans show and tell their most intimate details, they don't know how to respond to someone else's pain or discomfort.

"If I had a penny every time someone said 'Relax, take a vacation. I'd be a millionaire,'" says Katie Gerke, a 38-year-old Alexandria, Virginia, woman who has been trying for nine years to get pregnant. Gerke got so fed up with people avoiding her, or calling and saying they didn't know what to say, that she started Katie's Kards, 30 different expressions of sympathy and support for women and men who are trying unsuccessfully to have a child.

Some customers seek out words of expressions of support; for them, companies like Carlton Cards manufacture lines such as *Reflections: Inspiring Thoughts* by Emily Matthews. Her card "Life's Pathway," for example, is a 22-line ode of encouragement. Women, who buy about 85 percent of all cards, according to the card association, like *Reflections*, one sales rep says.

Men, however, want to keep it brief. When they find a card they like, they buy several, according to another representative.

(The Washington Post)

The "Travel Tips" column now appears on the new Travel Page in the Friday Jerusalem Post.

THE FEAST OF FOOLS by John David Morley. St. Martin's Press. \$23.95. 464 pp.

PLUTO stole Persephone, daughter of the harvest goddess Demeter, and kept her in his underground kingdom of Hades. The earth turned wintry and barren - Demeter was in mourning - until a compromise was reached: Persephone would return to earth for six months each year. Hence spring and summer, and during her time underground, autumn and winter.

That was the Greeks' version of the myth that conjures against the passing of light and warmth and celebrates that returns how Earth's creatures survive and die has taken root in the metaphors for our own human cycle: the waning and waxing of beauty, strength and love.

In *The Feast of Fools*, John David Morley uses Persephone's myth to recount a seasonal turning in several sets of lives. He places his stories in the six months between the autumnal and vernal equinoxes, when winter comes on and then retreats. He sets them in Munich, home of the Fasching celebration, the extravagant pagan-derived carnival that beats back the dark from the beginning of January to the beginning of February.

The Feast of Fools, the medieval name for Fasching, is itself a carnival of images and styles. Its narratives turn into dreams and grow back out of them. Its characters are mythological figures at one moment and endearingly human at the next.

Its prose wears masks and often changes them: from the naughty archness of an 18th-century bawdy novel to the wool-gathering of a Leopold Bloom canvassing through Dublin to the complex disjunctions of a Thomas Pynchon or a William Gaddis.

Morley, an American who 10 years ago wrote gracefully and perceptively of Japan in *Pictures From the Water Trade*, is an immigrant of the imagination. His cityscape, his celebrations, his

meals, his very weather and noises are German. Yet his principal characters mount their national ladders into a universality that is sweetly particular.

Like Joyce, he uses Greek legend - Persephone's journey instead of Ulysses' - to impart a design, while embodying the design with an unmistakable local humanity. His Dog Star shines in the sky and it has fleas.

PROCEEDING WEEK by week from September into a winter of unprecedented - and emblematic - cold, and then on to a February and March of revival and lengthening days. Morley writes of three couples who move from estrangement to understanding. Helpfully, in view of the excursions and diversions, he appends a chronology and a map.

The three women are sisters. Marthe, the oldest, is pregnant; she and her bookseller husband, Hieronymus, have moved into separate mental hibernation. She dreams of her fat confessor and imagines that her child will be Christ; he lives in the meticulous order of his shop and lusts vaguely for his assistant, Astrid.

Doty, the youngest, is a coiffed post-adolescent who temporarily succumbs to a pompous young seducer; while Harald, an

apprentice journalist and a full-time dreamer, yearns incompetently for her.

As the winter deepens, Marthe and Hieronymus and Doty and Harald freeze harder into the ice of their imaginations.

It is Stefanie, the middle sister, who descends into Hades for them all. For seven years she has lived with Brum, a passionate but self-centered painter. She loves him entirely, she carries one of his dry-cleaning stabs in a locket, she dreams how to finish his best paintings.

He uses the dreams, loves her, but doesn't quite see her. On their wedding day, in September, he arrives an absent-minded hour late; she clothes with Max.

Max is rich, seductive and depraved. His family fortune has been made in the mortuary business; he is literally the king of the underworld; he is Pluto. His heart is with the dead.

"Half the year, half the world is ours," he tells her. (Traditionally, autumn and winter see the most burials; in each hemisphere they fall at opposite ends of the calendar.)

BOOKS

RICHARD EDER

precious and elaborately tedious.

The Feast of Fools is a book of excess; it is exceedingly mannered and there is quite a bit too much of astrology and dreams. And yet it is exceedingly good.

GRADUALLY THE winter lifts. It is here, in the emerging of the three sisters and their men from their ice-bound fantasies, that Morley does his best writing.

Marthe, having given birth to twins, finds that her breasts have become "a public facility." She responds to her babies' need and becomes needy. Hieronymus responds to her need; soon he is window-shopping with her and making love. The red shift in light of two bodies traveling away from each other, he remarks, has become the blue shift of two bodies converging.

It doesn't take long for Doty, healthy and hungry, to shake off her pompous lover. It takes longer for her to help the splendidly unworried Harald to stop thinking how he loves her and to love her instead.

The spring equinox of Stefanie and Brum is knottier. Almost from the time she walks out on him he has been studying to become more human. He has the help of a witchlike creature who gives him lessons in cleanliness and connecting. Also, in making love to a woman instead of to himself through a woman. He must learn, she tells him, to use his equipment "not as a club but as a divining rod."

Stefanie's emergence from Max's Hades is as uneventful as a season shifting. Morley wonderfully brings Max down from Pluto the Dark God to Pluto the Pup. What is more difficult is for her and Brum to transform themselves in a way that is more than two simultaneous self-perfections. Morley treads the edge of couples therapy, he gets his trouser cuffs wet, we think he has fallen in, and then suddenly he is out and far beyond.

At times this book does too much and does some of it carelessly. And yet, the wonder remains. (Los Angeles Times)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1995

Gal: Sanbar should not seek reappointment to Leumi board

EVELYN GORDON and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi chairman Moshe Sanbar should not request the renewal of his appointment to the board of directors when his term expires in two months, Knesset Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) said yesterday.

Gal's statement came in advance of today's planned committee meeting on the retroactive raises Leumi gave its senior officials, and the implications of Sanbar's actions.

Gal declined to express an opinion on the rightness or wrongness of what Sanbar had done. However, he said, "Sanbar did not display the necessary sensitivity as chairman of a public bank, and he would do well not to request that his appointment as director be renewed for another term."

Gal stressed, however, that the committee "should not become a kangaroo court" on Sanbar's behavior. MKs can express their opinions, he said, but the committee is not going to issue any orders.

"The committee has been asked to discuss matters related

to the benefits given senior Leumi officials far too often," Gal added.

But a Bank Leumi spokesman said that "without convening a kangaroo court, Gedalya Gal has already passed a kangaroo court decision."

The issue of Bank Leumi officials' benefits recently exploded following Sanbar's purchase of four apartments built by Africa Israel, at a 4% less than market price. Sanbar serves as chairman of Africa Israel, Bank Leumi's real estate subsidiary.

The reduction Sanbar received upon purchasing the apartments is a benefit which should have received approval from the bank's board, claimed Ze'ev Abeles, Bank of Israel supervisor of banks in a letter to Bank Leumi's board.

The letter was sent at the end of last week in response to the letter Bank Leumi sent Abeles, after receiving his first letter on the episode. In its response, Bank Leumi said Sanbar informed the board of director's control committee before pur-



Abeles: The reduction Sanbar received is a benefit which should have received approval from the bank's board. (Tav Or)

chasing the apartments. According to Abeles, this is insufficient, since the control committee discussed the issue only from the shareholders' point of view. Abeles claims it is neces-



Gedalya Gal: Sanbar did not display the necessary sensitivity as chairman of a public bank.

sary to discuss the matter in the framework of benefits given to senior Leumi officials. The board has appointed a committee to formulate a letter of response to Abeles.

Nation's foreign currency reserves rise \$757 million

JOSE ROSENFELD

HIGH unlinked shekel interest rates added \$757 million to the country's foreign currency reserves in January, pushing the total up to \$7,552 billion, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

The rise reflected large private sector foreign currency sell orders to cash in on the current high interest rates.

Total foreign currency trading was \$4.85b. last month, as two-sided transactions with commercial banks made up 78 percent of foreign currency transactions.

The basket of currencies

inched up 0.41% against the shekel in January, an annual rise of 4.9%.

By contrast, the dollar lost 0.66% against the shekel last month, dropping at an annual rate of 7.53%.

At the end of last month, the currency basket exchange rate stood 1.34% below the "crawling peg's" midpoint, compared with -1.75% in December.

The country's foreign currency reserves peaked at \$7,726b. at

the end of May 1991. Meanwhile, the state budget began the year with a NIS 688m. surplus last month, the Treasury reported.

Expenditures were NIS 7.5b., while revenues totaled NIS 8.2b. The government's net borrowing was negative, with the Treasury paying out NIS 384m. more than it borrowed.

Income from privatization totaled NIS 279m. from the sale of Bank Mizrahi's controlling stake, including NIS 118m. in foreign currency.

Avner posts third quarter profit

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AVNER Insurance completed the first nine months of 1994 with a net profit of NIS 74 million, according to a financial statement approved by the board of directors yesterday.

Avner completed the third quarter with a net profit of NIS 45.5m.

This is the first time Avner published quarterly results. Previously, Avner - the state insurance body which pays claims to accident victims - only published half-yearly and annual reports. Revenues from insurance pre-

miums reached NIS 250m. in the third quarter, and NIS 893m. in the first nine months. In 1993, revenues from insurance premiums were NIS 1.03m.

Third quarter profits are expected to reduce Avner's accumulated debt to NIS 1.01 billion from NIS 1.068b.

Management attributed the improvement to a drop in the number of claims and the rise in premiums resulting from the September 1993 rise in insurance

tariffs.

Insurance sources said Avner's profits are of significant importance due to the Eliahu Insurance-Avner case scheduled to be heard in Tel Aviv District Court later this month.

Eliahu has asked the court to recognize the cancellation of its long-term contract with Avner, because Avner is insolvent. Eliahu had a special agreement with Avner to equally divide premiums and payments from legal claims. Avner is suing Eliahu for breach of contract.

Ben-Porat slams IEC's handling of Rutenberg power station

RACHEL NEIMAN

ISRAEL Electric Corporation general manager Rafi Peled said yesterday he accepted in full State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat's critical report of IEC's handling of the Rutenberg power station.

The Ashkelon power plant was the first planned entirely by the IEC, which decided to purchase equipment from different sources and make the adaptations.

The twin 550 MW-unit power plant was to be operational by 1986. But one unit was put into operation only in August, 1990 and the second in November, 1991. The report criticized IEC for not meeting its deadlines and IEC's board of directors for not

moving the project along.

IEC did not put one manager as project head, instead assigning separate managers to different parts of the project, such as operation and planning.

The chapter on IEC's financial estimates noted that long periods of time elapsed between board meetings on costs. According to the report, the first comprehensive discussion in 1990 presented data not based on costs accounted by the company, thus showing only slight deviations.

Construction began when less than 20% of the plan was complete. Tenders were prepared

and agreements signed before jobs were completely itemized, and IEC was often required to pay compensation on changes made during the course of construction. Changes also meant delays in execution and additional costs, the report said.

The report brought examples of unqualified contractors chosen by IEC, shoddy welding jobs and of equipment standing unprotected while in storage.

Support units such as fire detection systems were not installed on time, equipment quality control was not up to standard and other defects were discovered only after the station was operational.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Arkia, El Al sign agreement: Arkia and El Al have signed an agreement to continue cooperating. The domestic airline and the national airline work together in areas such as leasing of each other's planes and marketing of package tours. The cooperation also extends to El Al's charter subsidiary, Sun Dor.

Teva receives FDA approval for marketing generic drug: Teva has received its third FDA approval this year for marketing of a generic drug in the US. The drug, Metoprolol, a generic version of Geigy's Lopressor, is used to treat cardiovascular illnesses and has an annual market volume of \$220m. Several generic versions of the drug already exist. Teva will manufacture both raw materials and finished products.

IAI circumvented ban on paying foreign exchange insurance: Both the Defense Ministry and Israel Aircraft Industries have circumvented Treasury directives prohibiting the payment of foreign exchange insurance on government deals, according to a state comptroller's report to be released today.

The report singles out IAI for knowingly contravening the directives through inaccurate reporting on export invoices, so it could receive millions of dollars in foreign exchange insurance funds. Although the program was canceled in August 1993, the comptroller called on the authorities to review past foreign exchange payments and recover the money that should not have been paid out.

South Korean chain orders \$2.5m. in goods for 'Israel Week': South Korean retail chain Shinsegae has ordered \$2.5 million in Israeli-made goods for its "Israel Week," which will be held at the chain's six outlets in May.

Samsung Electronics inaugurates new showrooms in Ramat Gan: Samsung Electronics' new showrooms were officially inaugurated this week in Ramat Gan. Bargad Trading of the Eisenberg Group will represent the Korean concern in Israel.

Bezek gives state NIS 17.8 million for interim dividend: Bezek chairman Gurion Meltzer and director-general Yitzhak Kaul presented a check for NIS 17.8 million earlier this week to Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni as an interim dividend of company profits during the first half of 1994.

Kaul said the company was able to pay the dividend to the state, even though telecommunications rates fell six percent during the period and Bezek allocated NIS 320 million to compensate hundreds of workers going on early pension.

Work starts on project to build two restaurants at Hamat Gader: Work has begun on a NIS 1 million project to expand and improve tourism facilities at the Hamat Gader hot springs, south of Lake Kinneret, with the addition of two new restaurants. The new attractions, a snack bar and a kosher Thai restaurant, are expected to be completed and operational within three months.

WORLD BRIEFS

Fed raises key interest rates: The US Federal Reserve said yesterday it raised two key short-term interest rates by one-half percentage point to contain inflation and sustain the economy's expansion. The Fed said it was raising the discount rate it charges banks for overnight loans to 5.25 percent and would let the increase flow through to the federal funds rate that banks charge one another for overnight loans, raising that rate to 6%.

The action was the seventh round of interest-rate hikes by the Fed in the past year and brought rates to their highest level in more than three years.

US credit rating agency warns Italy on debt: US agency Standard & Poor's, whose credit ratings can have a powerful impact on markets, revised its view of Italy's foreign debt yesterday to "negative" from "stable," saying it feared the country's leaders were incapable of effective action on the budget deficit.

Standard & Poor's said in a statement it was leaving its AA rating on Italy's long-term foreign debt and the A1 rating on the short-term paper unchanged. Italy is the only Group-of-Seven country not to enjoy the agency's top AAA rating.

Credit Lyonnais raises curtain on MGM cinema sale: French state-owned bank Credit Lyonnais yesterday launched the sale of 450 MGM cinema screens in Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands and Denmark. Owned by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc, the American movies giant that was taken over by Credit Lyonnais in 1992, the cinemas are expected to raise up to \$340 million for the troubled bank.

Chief scientist: Increase budget for R&D

RACHEL NEIMAN

INVESTMENT in research and development (R&D) has the highest rate of return on a national level, and therefore the 1995 R&D budget should be increased from 1994's NIS 950 million, Industry and Trade Ministry Chief Scientist Dr. Yehoshua Gleitman said yesterday.

"We need NIS 1.55 billion," said Gleitman, who presented his office's 1994 report yesterday. "There is no argument about the number." Gleitman said he estimated that his 1995 budget will be somewhere between last year's figure and his ideal sum.

Gleitman pointed out that telecommunications exports have continued to grow, reaching slightly under \$1b. in 1994, a fact he attributed to investment in R&D.

The Office of the Chief Scientist yesterday approved a grant of \$310m. as the government's contribution to the \$1 billion earmarked for industrial R&D this year.

Examination of the annual budgets of the 24 largest grant recipients showed between 10% and 17% of those budgets went towards R&D, with office funding representing 42% of the total investment in R&D as compared with 51% in 1993.

In 1994 the office received \$42m. in royalties from companies previously given grants, as compared with \$32m. in 1993.

The office's research commit-

tee approved 1,271 new projects in 1994, 18% more than the previous year. The committee rejected 470 applications as compared with 392 in 1993.

Also, 776 companies applied for new R&D grants in 1994, as compared with 656 in 1993. Another 291 firms were first-time applicants as compared with 245 in 1993, 218 of them were start-ups as compared with 179 in 1993.

Start-up businesses are not officially considered industries by the Central Bureau of Statistics, said Gleitman. Most start-ups were in the high-tech field, he noted.

"We must close the gap forming between academics and industry," emphasized Gleitman. The office's Magnet program, in which \$48m. was invested in 1994, has been established for that purpose. Magnet projects are long-term, high-risk investments.

Other projects initiated this year by the office include a joint US-Israel Science and Technology Information Center and database, and CHIRD-F, an Israeli-Canadian R&D program.

The office is currently readying for US Commerce Secretary Ron Brown's visit next week, when joint projects will be discussed between Israel, the Palestinian autonomy, Jordan and Egypt. In April, Gleitman said, a joint Israel-India project in the electronics field will be announced.

Hapoalim, Bank of China sign deal

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim yesterday announced it has signed a financing deal with the Bank of China.

The agreement was signed to finance China's purchase of \$4.5 million worth of medical equipment from Mennen Medical, a Rehovot-based company.

Bank Hapoalim is the first Israeli bank to sign agreements of this kind with China. The Bank of

Israel's fund for financing medium and long-term export consignments provides financing for credit lines of this kind.

Hapoalim said the structure of the agreement relieves the exporter from most of the risks associated with the sale of equipment for long-term credit and with the need to receive bank credit to finance exports.

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למנוי פה **leumi pia**

Mutual fund industry suffers poor month

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE mutual fund industry had a poor January, as only 38 of the 293 funds achieved a positive real yield, the Meitav consultancy firm reported yesterday.

Meitav assumed a January inflation rate of 0.3 percent for its summary, and said its mutual fund index fell 1%, reflecting negative nominal yields in all of the group indexes.

Meitav said the capital market continued to suffer the same problems as in 1994 - high real interest rates, which created large mutual fund redemptions. Meitav emphasized the performance of the mutual fund market would have been even worse, if not for the cancellation of the stock exchange tax.

The least disappointing performers were funds specializing in government bonds, which were down an average 0.1%, followed by funds specializing in bonds, which were down an average of 0.3%.

Funds specializing in foreign currency had an average negative yield of 0.5%, followed by flexible funds, down 1.5%.

The best performer was Betucha Overseas, a fund specializing in foreign currency overseas, with a real positive yield of 6.7%. Epsilon Shares was the worst performing fund with a real negative yield of 13.7%.

Workers strike at Rotem-Ampert

AMIR ROZENBLIT

SOME 1,200 workers at Rotem-Ampert, a subsidiary of Israel Chemicals which produces phosphates and fertilizers, walked off the job yesterday at all the company's plants in the Negev.

Union head Shimon Saban said the firm's management was in violation of a January 22 regional labor court order that it immediately begin negotiating with the

workers over the preservation of their rights, given the impending privatization of ICL.

"Management came with the attitude that there must be layoffs, and was only ready to take, not to give," Saban said. "In such an atmosphere, negotiations are impossible."

ICL refused comment on the strike.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (31.1.95)				
	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (USD100,000)	5.500	5.575	5.500	
French franc (FF100,000)	5.125	5.500	5.125	
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.000	4.250	4.750	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.875	3.125	3.500	
Yen (¥1 million yen)	0.625	0.625	0.675	
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (1.2.95)				
CURRENCIES AND TRANSFERS				
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.3450	3.3570	—	—
U.S. dollar	2.9571	3.0392	—	—
French franc	1.9584	1.9890	1.92	2.01
French franc	4.7181	4.7945	4.62	4.84
Japanese yen (¥100)	0.5648	0.5728	0.55	0.58
Japanese yen (¥100)	2.9581	3.0414	2.94	3.02
Dutch guilder	1.7471	1.7718	1.71	1.77
Swiss franc	2.3150	2.3517	2.27	2.38
Swiss franc	0.3558	0.4033	0.36	0.41
Norwegian krona	0.4473	0.4538	0.44	0.45
Danish krone	0.4957	0.5037	0.49	0.48
British pound	0.6328	0.6417	0.62	0.65
Canadian dollar	2.1188	2.1404	2.09	2.12
Australian dollar	2.2832	2.2849	2.20	2.18
S. African rand	0.9418	0.9527	0.75	0.82
Belgian franc (FF)	0.9555	0.9638	0.93	0.98
Austrian schilling (S)	2.7857	2.8220	2.73	2.86
Italian lira (1000)	1.8558	1.8815	1.81	1.92
Japanese yen (¥100)	—	—	—	—
Spanish peseta (100)	3.7001	3.7283	0.85	0.90
Spanish peseta (100)	4.8811	4.7268	4.65	4.75
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2538	2.2578	2.18	2.24
* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.				
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI				

Key Representative Rates

US dollar ... NIS 3.0120 +0.47%
Sterling ... NIS 4.7833 -0.36%
Mark ... NIS 1.9773 +0.64%

INTEL STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Index	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	3017.3	+1.34
DJ Transp.	1493.2	+0.34
DJ Util.	1287.1	+0.25
DJ Comp.	1287.1	+0.25
NYSE Transp.	229.2	+1.57
NYSE Indus.	229.2	+0.25
S&P 500	229.2	+0.25
S&P 500	229.2	+0.25
AMEX Comp.	229.2	+0.25

Other stock market indexes

Index	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3017.3	+1.34
Tel Aviv 100	1750.4	+0.13
Singapore	1007.7	+0.13
Hong Kong	7048.6	+0.13
London	1201.1	+0.13

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX	Last	Change
Amir	48.5	-0.10
Amir A	48.5	-0.10
Amir B	48.5	-0.10
Amir C	48.5	-0.10
Amir D	48.5	-0.10

NASDAQ / over-the-counter

Index	Last	Change
4TH Dimension	4.35	+0.10
Amir B	4.35	+0.10
Amir C	4.35	+0.10
Amir D	4.35	+0.10
Amir E	4.35	+0.10

FTSE 100

Index	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3017.3	+1.34
Tel Aviv 100	1750.4	+0.13
Singapore	1007.7	+0.13
Hong Kong	7048.6	+0.13
London	1201.1	+0.13

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX	Last	Change
Amir	48.5	-0.10
Amir A	48.5	-0.10
Amir B	48.5	-0.10
Amir C	48.5	-0.10
Amir D	48.5	-0.10

NASDAQ / over-the-counter

Index	Last	Change
4TH Dimension	4.35	+0.10
Amir B	4.35	+0.10
Amir C	4.35	+0.10
Amir D	4.35	+0.10
Amir E	4.35	+0.10

FTSE 100

Index	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3017.3	+1.34
Tel Aviv 100	1750.4	+0.13
Singapore	1007.7	+0.13
Hong Kong	7048.6	+0.13
London	1201.1	+0.13

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX	Last	Change
Amir	48.5	-0.10
Amir A	48.5	-0.10
Amir B	48.5	-0.10
Amir C	48.5	-0.10
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The euphoria is behind us

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO



Two-Sided index Maof index Karam index

IF it wasn't the morning after, it was at least the day after. Trading opened as traders were awaiting expectantly to see what would develop after Tuesday's sharp rises. Trading on the NASDAQ provided no clear direction nor inspiration.

The Karam market was probably the only one on which there is still buying sentiment. Tuesday's large number of "buyers only" did not allow traders to buy as much as they wanted. Thus there was considerable buying pressure, and the index rose 2.9%.

The Two Sided and Maof were clearly mixed, with evidence of some profit taking. Prices moved weakly around the Tuesday close, first falling below it, then rising above it, and in finally closing very close to it. The Two Sided index was up 0.4%, while the Maof declined 0.1%. Turnover in the Karam market (parallel list included) contributed NIS 43m.

The euphoria over the cancellation of the stock market tax is clearly behind us. The way ahead is not clear. Investors are now eyeing interest rates, and making them the next problem to be solved, seeing them largely in isolation from the rest of the economic scene.

The prevailing view is that a low rise in the January index, due out in two weeks, will provide a sound basis for a decline in interest rates. Investors would like to see some kind of symbolic move, if only half a percent, to send a message to the market that everything is okay.

The relative uncertainty on the political scene, with the feeling

that Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, generally credited with steering the economy relatively well considering the pressures he is under, has lost considerable power and prestige, could constitute the fly in the ointment. This is likely to affect his ability to conduct a reasonably coherent economic policy, which would not bode well for the market, which hates political uncertainty even more than uncertainty about taxes.

Investors turned to the smaller securities on the Two Sided market, which are not part of the Maof index. It was clearly the turn of the speculative issues: Evergreen up 6.7%, Ossif 5%, Danbar 10%, Hanal 9.3%, Yaad 9.9%, Mashov 10%, Malibu 9%, Meir Ezra 10%, Poseidon 13.6%, T-Bone Veal 20.1%.

Teva rose slightly, in spite of the announcement of the FDA approval for another generic drug; similarly Bezek dropped 1.7% on the day when the prestigious UBS published a buy recommendation for its shares.

The Maof Options market was marked by a decline in volatility, particularly on the put side. What was particularly noticeable was that the puts were generally declining without a concomitant rise in the same calls.

For instance, the March 160 call declined by 1.3%, while the March 160 put dropped 24%. This is a clear indication that the temps are cooling and the expectations are the market will not be going anywhere in the near future. Of course, the Maof Options market has known to be wrong before.

FTSE rises 25.7 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - British blue chips ended broadly higher, lifting the FTSE 100 and broader market index to close near the top end of the day's range as investors await further news on expected monetary tightening by US and British authorities.

Hornets just buzzing along

NEW YORK (AP) — For the Charlotte Hornets and San Antonio Spurs, it was a month to remember. For the Golden State Warriors, it was one to forget.

A 97-88 victory over Washington on Tuesday night gave the Hornets an 11-4 record in January, the best month since the NBA franchise started play in 1988. Their previous best was 10-4 last April. With a 97-96 win at Sacramento, the Spurs also finished the month 11-4.

"In the early part of the season we were trying to find ourselves, and over the last two months we've really put it together," said Hornets guard Muggsy Bogues, who had 20 points.

Things keep falling apart for Golden State, which finished January 2-11. The Warriors' short roster — Latrell Sprewell and Rony Seikaly are injured, along with Ricky Pierce, Manute Bol and Chris Mullin — got even shorter when rookie forward Clifford Rozier was suspended for missing a shootaround.

Then forward Tom Gugliotta went down with a bruised knee late in the first half against the Knicks, leaving only eight players to finish a 90-87 loss.

"Here we go again," guard Tim Hardaway said. "We just have to deal with it."

Golden State, which has lost 139 player-games due to injury or illness, used its 18th different starting lineup Tuesday night, with David Wood starting for Rozier and rookie Dwayne Morton subbing for All-Star Sprewell.

Because his team was short-handed, coach Don Nelson abandoned the Warriors' usual up-tempo style in favor of a slow game in which his team worked the clock.

"We gave them a hard time because we had a good plan," Alexander said. "We knew we were not going to be able to run with them the way we like because they were going to tire us out. So we played a half-court game, used a lot of clock, made them fight through screens to take their legs out and executed well."



IN THE PASSING LANE — Milwaukee Bucks Vin Baker flips the ball to teammate Glenn Robinson as Dallas's Popeye Jones tries to intervene Tuesday. (Reuters)

The strategy succeeded, and Golden State stayed in the game until a 3-point shot by Derek Harper with 23 seconds to go gave the Knicks the upper hand.

Hornets 97, Bulls 88. Bogues led a balanced attack with 20 points in Charlotte's win over Washington.

Calbert Cheaney led Washington with 23 points. The visiting Bulls missed 18 of 34 3-point attempts.

Spurs 97, Kings 96. Dennis Rodman tipped in the rebound of David Robinson's miss with 8.0 seconds left, lifting San Antonio over Sacramento for its fourth straight win.

Rodman, who had 10 of his 19 rebounds in the first quarter, finished with six points. David Robinson led the Spurs with 23.

The Spurs have won 19 of 24. Mitch Richmond tied his season high with 33 points for Sacramento, which won its five previous games at home.

Bucks 107, Mavericks 105. Vin Baker had 20 points, and his 3-point shot with 2.8 seconds left gave Milwaukee a victory over Dallas.

Glenn Robinson, the top pick in last summer's draft, scored a season-high 38 points as the Bucks sent the visiting Mavericks to their eighth straight loss.

The Bucks trailed most of the game and were down 105-104 when Dallas' Popeye Jones missed a jumper with 13 seconds left. Marv Conlon grabbed the rebound to set up Baker's shot.

Jim Jackson led Dallas with 26 points.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS: New York 90, Golden State 87; Charlotte 97, Washington 88; Milwaukee 107, Dallas 105; Houston 86, Denver 74; Chicago 119, L.A. Lakers 115; San Antonio 97, Sacramento 96.

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Maccabi must give its all to beat powerful Pesaro

A SLING won't be enough.

Maccabi Tel Aviv will need to shoot its heaviest artillery tonight, if it wants to felling the giant of its final pool of the European Club Championship, Italy's Scavolini Pesaro. With four games of 14 left, Pesaro has the best record (8-2) in the eight-team pool with 18 points. Greece's Panathinaikos has 19, Real Madrid 17 and Maccabi and CSKA Moscow have 15 apiece.

Four of the top teams will advance to the next round and Maccabi is desperately fighting for fourth place. The more pessimistic statisticians forecast that if Maccabi loses another home game it will eventually fall behind CSKA. This of course depends on CSKA's results in its remaining games, but there is no denying the importance of a victory.

It's also an understatement to say this won't be easy — even at Yad Eliyahu. Pesaro's main pillar is 34-year-old veteran center

JOEL GORDIN

Walter Magnifico whose deadly inside and foul-line shooting has downed Maccabi on more than one occasion during the past decade.

Other tough nuts to crack are spark-plug guard, the 24-year-old Federico Pini, who ignites Magnifico; 33-year-old forward Sandro Dell'Agnello, shooting guard Antonio Riva and the American rebound king from Indiana, Dean Garrett.

The bench is as long as a stick of spaghetti: there's the other-for-everything player Corey Gaines, 33-year-old center Ario Costa and the young but talented Matteo Panichi and Paolo Cabini.

The Israeli champions put up an excellent show in the first game in Italy in December, but they still lost 79-74 in overtime. This will only serve to put the Italians even more on their guard.

Pesaro coach Valerio Biancini said last night: "Even though we are leading the pool, Maccabi are always favorites at Yad Eliyahu."

"Psychological warfare? Maybe so. At any rate, favorites or not, Maccabi will have to pull out all the stops to win."

Doron Jamchee, unpredictable during the last few games, will have to sink the baskets, while Norris Coleman and Radisav Curcic will have to play as well, if not better, under the boards than Magnifico and Garrett. Someone, whether Guy Goodes, Nadav Henefeld or Motti Daniel (apparently recovered from his injury) must neutralize Pini. Any weak link in the chain and the Italians will get through.

The game will be shown live on ITV from 8:30 pm.

In last night's action, Panathinaikos beat Benfica 80-60 in their semifinal series match. Greece's Zarko Paspalj led with 29 points.

Tonight's game isn't 'do or die'

COMMENT

BRIAN FREEMAN

BEFORE anyone gets upset if Maccabi Tel Aviv loses at home tonight in a "critical" game against Scavolini Pesaro, keep this in mind — the contest is no more a "must" than any of the other games basketball pundits have declared crucial in the European Club Championships final pool.

And guess what? Despite several losses in these "must-win" games, Maccabi is still very much in the race. In fact, the team's chances of advancing are good, even with a loss tonight.

So, instead of getting all worked up over the meaningless hype of a "game of the season," let's look at the situation in the last four games of the final pool.

Maccabi and CSKA Moscow are both 5-5, battling for the fourth and final spot in Group A to advance to the quarter-finals.

against the top four in Group B.

After tonight's game against Pesaro, the Israelis travel to Olimpija Ljubljana and Moscow before rounding out final pool play with a home contest against Benfica Lisbon.

Maccabi beat three of those teams in its first encounter. The collective record of its remaining opponents is 18-23.

Meanwhile, Moscow hosts Real Madrid tonight, travels to Pesaro, hosts Maccabi and then finishes on the road against Ljubljana.

CSKA won only one game — against Ljubljana — the first time it played these teams, and the

collective record of its opponents is 23-17.

It is, of course, impossible to predict whether a team will perform according to how it appears on paper.

But as it is very unlikely that Moscow, which has lost five of its last seven European contests, will win all its remaining games, Maccabi has the luxury of dropping a game — or even two — and still advance.

The key game is clearly the matchup between the two teams. Maccabi beat Moscow 92-89 in Tel Aviv. If it wins in Moscow, or loses by less than three points, Maccabi retains the tie-breaker advantage against CSKA.

That matchup, on February 16, could really be called "the game of the season." It's too bad that by then the phrase will be so worn out it will ring a bit hollow.

Reserve NBA All-Stars named

NEW YORK (AP) — Although their names did not appear on the ballot, Dana Barros of the Philadelphia 76ers and Tyrone Hill of the Cleveland Cavaliers will appear in the NBA All-Star game.

They were among 14 reserves added Tuesday to the teams. The game is to be played February 12 at Phoenix.

Also added by the coaches from the Eastern Conference were Patrick Ewing of New York and Alonzo Mourning and Larry Johnson of Charlotte, Vin Baker of Milwaukee and Joe Dumars of Detroit.

Karl Malone and John Stockton of Utah were picked for the Western Conference team along with Seattle's Gary Payton and

Detlef Schrempf, San Antonio's David Robinson, Cedric Ceballos of the Los Angeles Lakers and Mitch Richmond of Sacramento.

The reserves were selected by the twenty-seven NBA head coaches, each of whom voted for seven players from his conference.

Picked as West starters were Charles Barkley of Phoenix and Shawn Kemp of Seattle, Hakeem Olajuwon of Houston, Latrell Sprewell of Golden State, and Dan Majerle of Phoenix.

Voted to the East starting team were rookie Grant Hill of Detroit, Scottie Pippen of Chicago, Shaquille O'Neal and Anfernee Hardaway of Orlando, and Reggie Miller of Indiana.

UConn beats Miami, 82-57

Huskies now No. 4 in the rankings

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

THE University of Connecticut Huskies rebounded from their first loss of the season to trounce Miami 82-57 Tuesday night in Hartford. Connecticut was led by Ray Allen's 25 points, Donny Marshall's 16 and 12 each by Kevin Ollie and Brian Fair.

Israeli guard Doron Sheffer tallied 7 points, shooting 3-8 from the field (1-3 from three-point range) and 0-1 from the line. He had seven rebounds, seven assists and two steals, but also turned the ball over seven times.

By losing Saturday to Kansas, UConn fell from No. 2 to No. 4 in the national rankings released Monday, behind top-rated Massachusetts, North Carolina and Kansas.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Shanahan named Broncos coach

Mike Shanahan, coordinator of the explosive offense of the Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers, was named the new head coach of the Denver Broncos on Tuesday.

Shanahan was introduced by Broncos owner Pat Bowlen at a news conference at Mile High Stadium in Denver. Various reports have said Shanahan agreed to a five-year, \$6 million contract.

"It's great to be back home again," said Shanahan, who begins his third stint with the Broncos.

Baseball talks resume

Major League Baseball players and owners resumed talks yesterday to end the six-month-old baseball strike in time for spring training, with both sides hoping to avoid a settlement imposed by the government.

The owners arrived at the talks at a Washington hotel with a new proposal in hand that attempts to break a deadlock in the talks, which were suspended on December 22 when the owners declared an impasse.

So far, sizzling Nordiques can't be beat

NEW YORK (AP) — Simply perfect. Believe it or not, the Quebec Nordiques can make that claim so far, even if it is early in the hockey season.

"It only looks easy because everything has been going well," Nordiques defenseman Uwe Krupp said after scoring twice in a 5-2 triumph over the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday night.

That victory was the fifth straight for the surprising Nordiques, who kept pace with Pittsburgh as the NHL's only unbeaten, untied teams. The 5-0 start is the Nordiques' fastest since 1985-86, when they won their first seven games. Last season, the Nordiques finished out of the playoffs.

"We played another smart game," said Quebec center Joe Sakic, who had a shorthanded goal and three assists. "It was only 3-2 going into the third period, but everybody played smart, solid hockey in the third."

Sakic tied the score 2-2 at 17:27 of the first period. The Quebec captain, who has nine points this season, then had a hand in the tie-breaking, power-play goal by Krupp at 10:09 of the second period.

Eric Lindros scored for Philadelphia.

Lightning 4, Canadiens 1. Daren Puppa made 19 saves and Rob Zamuner and Chris Gratton scored their first goals of the season, leading Tampa Bay past Montreal.

After only scoring three times in the first period all season, the Lightning stunned Montreal with three first-period goals for a 3-1 lead.

With the victory, the third-year Lightning improved their lifetime record to 4-2-1 against the perennial Stanley Cup contenders. After losing their first two games of the season, the Lightning have won three of four to climb to .500 at 3-3-0. Montreal dropped to 2-2-1.

Islanders 5, Panthers 1.

Steve Thomas scored two power-play goals to lead New York over Pittsburgh.

Phil didn't bowl particularly well in Adelaide, on the trip he has done a decent stock-bowling job for us."

Veteran opener Graham Gooch, 41, will play his 118th and last Test, breaking David Gower's England appearance record, and Atherton was quick to praise his long-time opening partner.

"Graham has been one of England's finest players, particularly in the latter stages of his career when he took on the captaincy," he said.

Atherton added it was now a question of his side trying to maintain the momentum they built up in Adelaide when they secured their first Test win in Australia since 1986.

"We must go out with a similar attitude and intent to the one we showed there, and show that to the opposition," Atherton said.

"We will be going hell for leather as we did on Monday and hope we can carry that sort of form through," Atherton added.

Teams: Australia: Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Stephen Waugh, Greg Blewett, Ian Healy, Shane Warne, Brendon Julian, Jo Angel, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath.

England: Michael Atherton (captain), Graham Gooch, Mike Gatting, Graham Thorpe, John Crawley, Mark Ramprakash, Steve Rhodes, Chris Lewis, Philip DeFreitas, Angus Fraser, Dervin Malcolm, Philip Tufnell.

But Atherton said: "Although

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FA allows Merson back

LONDON (Reuters) — Arsenal's Paul Merson, who recently spent six weeks in a rehabilitation clinic after confessions of drug-taking, gambling and alcoholism, was yesterday given the all clear by the FA to resume his soccer career.

An FA statement said: "Paul Merson has been allowed to resume playing football for his club after being given the go-ahead by the Football Association."

Merson, 27 next month, last played on November 3 — a few weeks before his startling confessions, which included a cocaine habit, were revealed to a shocked soccer world.

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER — Yesterday's results: Arsenal drew 0-0 with AC Milan in the first leg of the European Super Cup. Premier League: Blackburn 1, Leeds 1; Newcastle 2, Everton 0. Division One: West Bromwich 4, Watford 1.

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Segev to be questioned over bribery allegations

EVELYN GORDON

ENERGY Minister Gonen Segev will be questioned by police about allegations that he took bribes while serving as a medical consultant at Hamat Gader, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair decided yesterday.

Segev told Israel Radio he is confident he can refute the allegations.

The allegations, submitted to the police by MK Limor Livnat (Likud), were collected from several Holocaust survivors who receive government funds to have treatment at the spa. According to the Justice Ministry, the complaints alleged that Segev took bribes in exchange for giving the survivors permission to split their treatment into two sessions, instead of using all 21 days at once.

A few weeks ago, Ben-Yair told Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that

there was no reason to delay Segev's appointment as Energy Minister - even though the police had not yet finished their preliminary investigation of the complaints - because so far, the police had uncovered nothing that even merited a more serious investigation.

After completing the preliminary check, however, police asked for Ben-Yair's instructions as to whether they should call Segev in for questioning, and Ben-Yair decided they should.

Ben-Yair's office declined to say whether the decision to question Segev stemmed from new evidence uncovered during the investigation, which seemed to indicate a basis for the allegations. Another possibility is that Ben-Yair wanted Segev questioned simply to show that every avenue had been explored before closing the investigation.

Knesset panel discusses care of Chernobyl victims

JUDY SIEGEL

MANY of the 150,000 immigrants from the areas affected by the radioactive explosion in Chernobyl suffer from anxiety about contracting cancer, but many of them are not being monitored by their health funds.

This was disclosed yesterday at a meeting of the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee. The committee asked the Foreign Ministry to speed up its efforts to reach agreements with the governments of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus regarding compensation for former residents of the Chernobyl area who now live in Israel.

It was revealed that talks are also being held with an international fund, based in Geneva, to which 120 countries contribute, which is acting to help Chernobyl victims around the world. Meron Gordon of the Foreign Ministry said he was unaware of the Geneva fund until hearing about it at the committee meeting.

Committee chairman MK Yossi Katz said that "while sensitivity must be shown to the immigrants, we must not stigmatize them, and there is no justification for 'marking' a large group of people and causing them more damage."

Katz suggested that the National Insurance Institute help fi-

nance research on the health of Chernobyl survivors. Others called for a detailed plan of medical examinations for immigrants from the region that the health funds would be bound to finance.

Representatives of survivor organizations said that over 400 immigrants now living here were sent by the Soviet authorities to "clean up" the reactor area and thus are at great risk of getting cancer.

Nada Chozo of the SOS Chernobyl organization said the main problem is psychological. "There is no center that can tell them if they are sick or healthy and to follow up children and young couples at high risk."

A Kupat Holim Clalit expert said the number of children with leukemia who come from the region is steady, but there is an increase in the number of children with thyroid cancer. Three to five children are expected to be diagnosed with this cancer each year, he said. He maintained that preventive care makes careful annual follow-up unnecessary.

Health Ministry chief epidemiologist Dr. Paul Slater said that any Chernobyl victim who believes he is not getting adequate care should complain directly to the ministry.

Court to rule on appeal against sex crime acquittal

RAINE MARCUS

AN expanded panel of five Supreme Court justices is expected to rule today on a state appeal against the court's overturning of the conviction of a man for sexually assaulting his two daughters.

State Attorney Dorit Beinisch brought the appeal because of pressure applied by the National Council for the Child.

In special circumstances the state attorney can appeal a Supreme Court decision, and a five-justice panel is appointed to hear the case.

The Bnei Brak resident was convicted of aggravated sexual assault on his daughters, 10 and 11 at the time of the attack, by the Tel Aviv District Court in

1992. He was sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

But in October, 1993, he appealed to the Supreme Court, which found him guilty of sexual assault and not aggravated sexual assault. It ruled that since the statute of limitations regarding the lesser charge is five years, the charges were no longer valid.

The man's daughters filed their complaint about six years after the offenses were committed.

The Supreme Court had ruled that the girls did not object to their father's sexual advances, but National Council for the Child director Dr. Yitzhak Kadman said the daughters had been incapable of refusing.

Upper Nazareth to keep development status

DAVID RUDGE

UPPER Nazareth's priority development status will remain in force for at least the next two years, according to Prime Minister's Office Director-General Shimon Sheves.

The assurance was given to Mayor Menahem Ariav at the end of a visit by Sheves to the Galilee development town on Tuesday.

It followed earlier reports that Upper Nazareth's classification as a national priority development area - granting benefits and incentives to entrepreneurs wishing to establish new businesses there - would be rescinded.

Sheves, however, told Ariav that the designation the town currently enjoys would be extended at least until September 1997, to help

encourage new industrial enterprises. Ariav noted that over 17,500 new immigrants had moved into the town in the past four years, boosting the population by nearly 70 per cent.

He stressed that despite the population boom, unemployment had dropped from 17 per cent to just four per cent over the same period, primarily as a result of the establishment of new industrial and business enterprises and the expansion of existing ones.

Sheves said he would appoint a team of experts to assess the special requirements of Upper Nazareth to ensure the town's continued success in absorbing immigrants and creating jobs.



Kasser Salhab holds up a picture of her granddaughter Nasrin.

(Brian Heidler)

Toddler dies after climbing onto truck and being dragged away

BILL HUTMAN and Tim

AN 18-month-old girl, Nasrin Salhab, was killed yesterday morning when she was run over by a gas company truck, near her home in the Abu Tor neighborhood of Jerusalem.

The driver of the truck, who had come to change the family's gas canister, drove away from the home with the little girl dangling from the grille, witnesses said.

"We started yelling at the driver to stop, but he apparently didn't hear us," said Gedalia Mindenbaum, who works at a souvenir store in the neighborhood. "After several dozen meters, we saw the baby fall down, and the truck kept on going. We

ran to the baby and when we found her she was still breathing, but after a few seconds she stopped."

The girl's grandmother, Kasser Salhab, said she and Nasrin had gone out to greet the driver when he pulled up. While he was replacing the canisters, the girl apparently climbed up on the truck, she said.

As she was going back to the house, she noticed Nasrin was not following her, and she turned to see the truck driving away with the girl hanging from it. She, too,

screamed at the driver to stop, but to no avail.

The driver was apparently unaware anything was amiss as he drove away. He later turned himself over to police after his managers informed him his truck was spotted at the accident scene.

Magen David Adom medics called to the scene tried unsuccessfully to revive the girl, and she was taken to Hadassah University Hospital at Mount Scopus, where she was pronounced dead.

The police spokesman said the accident was under investigation, and that the driver was detained for questioning.

Shohat takes flack in plenum over TASE tax U-turn

LIAT COLLINS and EVELYN GORDON

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat continued to draw fire from opposition MKs yesterday over the ill-fated stock market tax, though a bill to abolish the tax, sponsored by a Likud MK, was passed in the plenum 47-35.

In a separate move, three Labor MKs - Yossi Vanunu, Eli Dayan and Avi Yehzekel - submitted a bill proposing to abolish the health tax and instead fund the health system via income taxes.

Another Labor MK, Yoram Lass, suggested raising income

taxes and the valued added tax to fund the health system.

The main attack on Shohat came from Likud MK Ariel Weinstein, who called for his resignation and accused him of misleading the prime minister about the banks' ability to handle the tax.

Weinstein had submitted the bill to abolish the tax, even though Shohat has already promised to do so.

Shohat remained firm and repeated: "I believe the tax was and remains fair from both the social

and economic points of view, to spread out the tax base and to tax capital, not only labor. My belief in these principles has not changed. Like it exists in all developed states, it should exist here too."

"But from the meeting point between politics, economics, and psychology I am at peace with my decision to abolish the tax," he said.

He said that on Sunday he would recommend to the cabinet to submit legislation to abolish the tax. He also promised there would be no new taxes or compulsory loans to make up the budget shortfall that would result from the loss of revenue caused by the stock tax's cancellation.

Also yesterday, some 20 Labor MKs came to a special meeting to

show support for the embattled Shohat.

MK Gideon Saguy, who organized the event, said its purpose was to demonstrate that "we oppose anything that undermines, or that could be interpreted as undermining, the finance minister's status."

While it is clear that the bourse tax "contributed negatively" to the public's feelings about the economy, he added, the faction cannot evade its own responsibility for this and put all the blame on Shohat.

MK after MK - including many who have attacked Shohat bitterly in the past - spoke on his behalf, praising his contribution to economic growth and lower unemployment.

"Injury to you is injury to all of us," Rafi Elul told Shohat. "I want for once to say thank you for all that you have done."

"Beiga's [Shohat's] social sensitivity is of the highest order," said Ya'acov Shefi. "And the bourse tax isn't Beiga's problem - it's all of our problem. We all agreed [to it]... He did a great thing [by revoking the tax]. Not everyone would be willing, after passing a law, to cancel it."

Shohat, however, seemed rather embarrassed by the fact that his colleagues considered him in need of such a demonstration of support.

"I want to thank all the MKs [who came]," he said. "But I consider the situation to be much less serious than you do... I certainly do not intend to resign."

"Every finance minister is graded on an overall balance sheet, a bottom line," he continued - and the economic growth which took place under his stewardship, he said, puts the balance in his favor.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Conscription for women attacked

MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) submitted a bill to abolish mandatory military service for women yesterday, while MK Tamar Gozansky (Hadash) called for the same move during a plenum discussion. Gafni noted that in most of the world, including countries in a state of war, military service for women is voluntary.

Ramat Gan told to defend ban on sex shop

The High Court of Justice yesterday issued a show-cause order against the city of Ramat Gan for refusing to let a sex shop open in a shopping mall. The city had said the shop would be a bad influence on the pupils at a nearby school, but the court rejected the argument.

Coalition defeats two bills on water

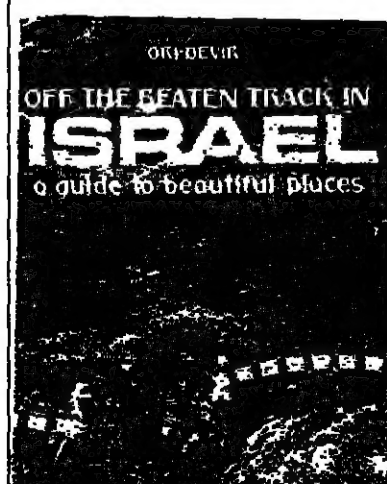
The coalition yesterday defeated two proposals to legislate against transfer of water sources to a foreign country. The motions were defeated 35 to 47.

New fund to sponsor care for region's Arabs

A Middle East Medical Assistance Foundation has been established to raise money among Arab communities throughout the world, to pay for unusual medical care in Israel for Arabs in the region.

The foundation's bank account is at the Israel Discount Bank, branch 188 in Rishon LeZion, account number 3700.

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